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Hungarian National Assembly: Rules, Procedures

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East Europe
SUPPLEMENT
Hungarian National Assembly: Rules, Procedures

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National Assembly's Internal Rules, Procedures

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[Resolution No. 46/1994 on the House Rules of the National Assembly of the Hungarian Republic, adopted by the National Assembly on 20 September 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text]

National Assembly
Resolution No. 46.OGY of 30 September 1994
on the House Rules of the National Assembly
of the Hungarian Republic,
adopted by the National Assembly on
20 September 1994

Pursuant to Paragraph 24 (4) of the Constitution, the National Assembly establishes its rules and order of business in the following House Rules:

PART I

CONSTITUTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Convening the organizing meeting

Paragraph 1

A newly elected National Assembly shall be convened by the president of the Republic for a certain day within one month after the elections.

Submitting mandates

Paragraph 2

(1) Representatives elected in general elections of National Assembly representatives shall submit their mandates to the president of the Republic prior to the organizing meeting of the National Assembly.

(2) Representatives elected in special elections, as well as representatives appointed to fill seats vacated by representatives elected from slates, shall be submitted to the president of the National Assembly.

Managing the organizing meeting

Paragraph 3

(1) The president of the Republic shall open the organizing meeting of the National Assembly. Thereafter, he shall provide information concerning the receipt of mandates, and shall request the oldest representatives to perform the duties of the senior member, and the four youngest representatives to become the junior clerks.

(2) If a representative refuses the request, the next oldest or youngest representative, respectively, shall be requested to perform the required tasks.

Paragraph 4

(1) The organizing meeting shall be chaired by the senior member until the officers of the National Assembly are elected.

(2) The executive secretary of the National Assembly shall perform his functions, as those relate to the meeting of the National Assembly, under the direction of the senior member, until the officers of the National Assembly are elected.

Reports related to the elections

Paragraph 5

(1) After the senior member and the junior clerks assume their offices

(a) the chairman of the National Election Committee shall report to the National Assembly on behalf of the Committee about the election of National Assembly representatives, and

(b) the minister of the interior about the organizing and the technical implementation of state functions related to the elections.

(2) The National Assembly shall accept or reject the reports specified in Section (1), after the representatives take their oaths.

Examining the mandates

Paragraph 6

(1) Following the presentation of reports, the senior member and the junior clerks—acting as a committee to examine mandates—shall examine the correctness of the representatives' mandates, and compare those with election documents (minutes recorded by election committees, statements by representatives concerning the acceptance of mandates and the absence of incompatibility, party slates, and mandates).

(2) The mandates of the senior member and the junior clerks shall be examined by a committee composed of the first five certified representatives listed on the roster of representatives. This committee shall be established immediately, and shall elect a spokesman from among its members. If the senior member or a junior clerk is among the first five representatives on the roster of representatives, or if a representative whose name appears among the first five names on the roster of representatives rejects the request to serve on the committee, the representative whose name appears next on the roster shall become a member of the committee.

Paragraph 7

(1) The results of the examination of mandates shall first be reported to the National Assembly by the spokesman of the committee defined in Paragraph 6 (2), and then by the senior member.

(2) The election documents defined in Paragraph 6 (1), on representatives elected in special elections, or representatives chosen by a given party from the national slate, shall be examined by the committee that examines mandates. The spokesman of the committee shall report the results of the examination at the next meeting of the National Assembly.

(3) No amendment shall be offered to findings based on the examination of mandates. The National Assembly shall approve or reject the mandates without debate.

The taking of oaths

Paragraph 8

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(1) Representatives shall take their oaths of office at the organizing meeting, after passing a resolution on the results of examining the mandates, and shall affix their signatures to the affidavit.

(2) The text of the oath is contained in *Appendix 1* to the House Rules.

(3) Representatives absent from the organizing meeting, and representatives whose mandates are examined pursuant to Paragraph 7 (2), shall take their oaths, and sign the affidavit before the National Assembly.

(4) Except for performing tasks necessarily related to the organizing meeting, no representative shall participate in the workings of the National Assembly before taking the oath and signing the affidavit; representatives shall be entitled to receive their current and retroactive honoraria and expense reimbursement, and shall take advantage of benefits only after taking the oath.

Announcing the formation of parliamentary groups

Paragraph 9

(1) The formation of parliamentary groups shall be announced at the organizing meeting, after swearing in the representatives.

(2) Announcements concerning the formation of parliamentary groups shall contain the name of the group, the name of the group's leader and possible other officers, and the roster of representatives in the group.

(3) The announcement specified in Sections (1) and (2) shall be filed in writing with the senior member; changes shall be filed in writing with the president of the National Assembly.

(3) With respect to parliamentary groups formed after the organizing meeting, the provisions of Sections (2) and (3), and of Paragraphs 14 and 15 shall be appropriately applied.

Electing the officers of the National Assembly

Paragraph 10

(1) The National Assembly shall elect its president, vice presidents, and clerks by secret vote at the organizing meeting, in response to a proposal by the leaders of groups of parties represented in the National Assembly, and based on the recommendation of the senior member.

(2) No amendment shall be offered to the recommendation made pursuant to Section (1), the National Assembly shall render a decision regarding the recommendation without debate.

(3) After votes are cast, the junior clerks shall count the votes under the supervision of the senior member, and the senior member shall announce the results.

(4) If the required majority fails to materialize in the election of one or another officer, a second ballot shall be called for the election of that officer during the organizing meeting.

(5) If several candidates were nominated to the office for which the election is being repeated pursuant to Section (4), votes may be cast for the two nominees for president who received the largest number of votes, and for one more of the nominees than the number of vice presidents and clerks to be elected, from among those who received the largest number of votes, but were not elected.

(6) New nominations and new balloting shall be called for offices not filled, if the repeated balloting produces no results.

Paragraph 11

If the mandate of an officer ceases, the provisions of Paragraph 10 shall be appropriately applied for the election of the new officer; in the course of such balloting for the office of the president of the National Assembly, the functions of the senior member shall be performed by the vice president of the National Assembly, chosen on the basis of the order of substitution provided in Paragraph 20 (2).

Forming the Committee on the House

Paragraph 12

(1) A Committee on the House (composed pursuant to Paragraph 24 (1)) shall be formed after the announcement of the names of parliamentary group leaders (Paragraph 9 (1)-(2)), and after the election of the president and the vice presidents of the National Assembly (Paragraphs 10-11).

(2) The members of the Committee on the House shall be reported by the senior member to the National Assembly at the organizing meeting; thereafter the senior member shall yield the chair to the elected president of the National Assembly.

PART II

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES AND PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Chapter 1

REPRESENTATIVES

The rights and duties of representatives

Paragraph 13

(1) National Assembly representatives shall perform their activities in the public interest. They are not subject to direction insofar as their activities as representatives are concerned.

(2) Unless excepted by law, any representative may be elected to serve in any office or committee of the National Assembly.

(3) It is the right and duty of representatives to participate in the workings of the National Assembly by making initiatives, and by furthering the successful functioning of the National Assembly. It is the duty of representatives to attend the plenary meetings of the National Assembly, as well as the meetings of committees of which they are members.

(4) It is the duty of representatives to perform their activities as representatives pursuant to the Constitution and to legal provisions, as well as to abide by the House Rules.

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Chapter 2

PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Forming parliamentary groups in the National Assembly

Paragraph 14

(1) National Assembly representatives belonging to one and the same party may form parliamentary groups in order to coordinate their activities in the National Assembly.

(2) Representatives belonging to one and the same party may form only one parliamentary group.

(3) In the context of this Paragraph, a representative shall be regarded as belonging to a given party if he

(a) is a member of the party, or if he

(b) ran for election with the support of the party, or if he

(c) is an independent representative, or a representative who declares himself to be independent, provided that a given group of representatives agrees that he join the group.

(4) Parliamentary groups shall choose their own leaders from among their members, or may designate a person to deal with issues of concern that are common to the members of the group. If the leader of a parliamentary group is impeded in performing his functions, the deputy leader of the parliamentary group shall exercise all authority assigned by the House Rules to the leader of the group.

Paragraph 15

(1) A minimum of 15 representatives may form a parliamentary group. Each representative may be a member of only one parliamentary group.

(2) Representatives may leave their parliamentary groups. A parliamentary group may expel a member of the group. A representative who left a group or was expelled from a group shall be regarded as an independent representative; a representative who has become independent as a result of leaving a group or being expelled from a group may join another parliamentary group no sooner than six months after leaving a parliamentary group, or being expelled from a parliamentary group.

The financial management of parliamentary groups

Paragraph 16

(1) Funds to cover the operating expenditures of parliamentary groups shall be appropriated as part of the National Assembly budget, in the form of a segregated fund.

(2) A parliamentary group may debit the fund allocated pursuant to Section (1), by obligating funds or making payments from the fund as directed by the leader of the parliamentary group.

(3) Rules pertaining to the financial management of organs funded by the central budget shall be appropriately applied to the financial management of parliamentary groups.

Discontinuing a parliamentary group

Paragraph 17

(1) A parliamentary group shall be discontinued if its membership drops below 15, or if the parliamentary group resolves to discontinue its functioning.

(2) The leader of a discontinued parliamentary group shall report to the president of the National Assembly the fact that his parliamentary group has ceased to exist; such report shall be made without delay, but in no event later than three days after the termination of the parliamentary group. It shall be the ex officio duty of the president of the National Assembly to declare the termination of a parliamentary group, if the leader of the parliamentary group fails to report to the president of the National Assembly within the prescribed deadline.

(3) A parliamentary group shall not be regarded as discontinued if it has fewer than 15 members, but if the missing mandate may be filled pursuant to Paragraph 46 (5) of Law No. 34 of 1989 on the election of National Assembly representatives, within the deadline specified therein.

Rules for forming caucuses, and for briefings by parliamentary groups and caucuses

Paragraph 18

(1) Caucuses related to the activities of representatives (e.g., professional, regional caucuses) and formed in addition to partisan parliamentary groups shall not qualify as parliamentary groups in the context of the House Rules.

(2) Parliamentary groups, caucuses, and individual representatives may hold news conferences in the National Assembly building, but only on topics related to the activities of the National Assembly.

PART III

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Chapter 1

THE OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The president of the National Assembly

Paragraph 19

(1) The president of the National Assembly shall ensure the ability of the National Assembly to exercise its powers, protect the prestige of the National Assembly, provide for the maintenance of order in, and the security of the National Assembly, and shall organize the work of the National Assembly.

(2) As part of his duties specified in Section (1), the president of the National Assembly shall

(a) represent the National Assembly in its relations with other state organs, as well as with social and other organizations,

(b) represent the National Assembly in international relations,

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(c) convene sessions of the National Assembly, and within that, individual plenary meetings of the National Assembly, and

(d) call to order, conduct in a nonpartisan fashion, and adjourn plenary meetings; recognize representatives wanting to speak, enforce compliance with House Rules, announce voting results, and maintain order during plenary meetings;

the president of the National Assembly may

(e) speak at any time to maintain order during deliberations, but if he wishes to address the merits of an issue, he shall yield his chair as president of the National Assembly, and

(f) attend committee meetings with a right to confer, and shall chair the meetings of the Committee on the House;

the president of the National Assembly shall

(g) coordinate the functioning of committees,

(h) refer proposals and materials submitted to the National Assembly to the committee having jurisdiction, for purposes of codification and action,

(i) appoint and relieve of their duties the executive secretary of the National Assembly and his deputies, the director in chief responsible for business matters, the heads of offices specified in the Organizational and Operating Rules and Regulations, as well as the director in chief and deputy directors of the National Assembly Library (hereinafter: Library) pursuant to legal provisions governing the order of competitive examinations for the heads of public collections; and shall exercise the authority of the employer over executives appointed by him,

(j) approve the Organizational and Operating Rules and Regulations of the official organs of the National Assembly,

(k) approve the proposed budget of the National Assembly, and shall control the implementation of the approved budget,

(l) initiate and take necessary steps to ensure the security of the National Assembly, and

(m) perform all tasks assigned to him by the House Rules and laws.

(3) If the president speaks on a matter on the agenda in his capacity as a representative, he shall not perform the functions specified in Section (2) (d) during further debate of the issue, until voting on the issue is completed, unless agreed to by the National Assembly.

(4) The president shall forward each day and without delay to all representatives a list of newly received legislative proposals. The Office of the National Assembly shall forward a copy of any legislative proposal to any representative, if so requested by a representative or committee. The president shall forward one complete set of legislative proposals received to each member of the designated committee, and two complete sets to the leaders of each parliamentary group.

(5) The president shall provide access for representatives to documents addressed to the National Assembly or to the president of the National Assembly, in the latter case, provided that such documents are relevant to the National Assembly.

The vice presidents of the National Assembly

Paragraph 20

(1) The vice presidents of the National Assembly shall substitute for the president of the National Assembly in the order determined by the president, in performing the tasks specified in Paragraph 19.

(2) In case of long-term impediment, the president of the National Assembly shall be substituted by the vice president belonging to the parliamentary group having the largest membership, and in case of his impediment, by the vice president belonging to the parliamentary group having the second largest membership. If two parliamentary groups have memberships of an identical size, the Committee on the House shall designate the vice president substituting for the president of the National Assembly.

(3) Except for the right to make appointments and to relieve persons of their duties, the rights and duties of vice presidents substituting for the president of the National Assembly shall be the same as those of the president of the National Assembly.

The clerks of the National Assembly

Paragraph 21

(1) The clerks of the National Assembly shall

(a) take part in managing the plenary meetings of the National Assembly;

(b) count the votes when necessary, if voting takes place by the raising of hands;

(c) act as a vote tallying committee, when secret votes are cast;

(d) read aloud the documents of the National Assembly, and read the text of the oath when swearing in representatives;

(e) maintain a roster of representatives who have announced their desire to speak;

(f) indicate that the time of representatives who have the floor has expired; and shall

(g) attest to the authenticity of the verbatim record of meetings of the National Assembly.

(2) Two clerks, in the order determined by the president of the National Assembly, shall simultaneously be on duty during National Assembly plenary meetings, one of whom shall preferably belong to the ruling party, and the other preferably to an opposition party.

Termination of the mandate of officers

Paragraph 22

(1) The mandate of the officers of the National Assembly shall cease when

(a) the representative mandate of the officer ceases;

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(b) the representative leaves, or is expelled from his parliamentary group, or, in case of independent representatives, when the independent representatives joins a parliamentary group;

(c) the parliamentary group to which he belongs ceases;

(d) the officer is relieved of his duties; or when

(e) the officer resigns his office.

(2) An officer may be relieved of his duties upon recommendation by the Committee on the House, based on a decision made by the National Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 10 (2).

Chapter 2

THE COMMITTEE ON THE HOUSE

Paragraph 23

The Committee on the House shall

(a) take positions regarding the National Assembly's order of work per session and per week;

(b) make recommendations regarding the legislative calendar, and the duration of, and time limitations on speeches;

(c) debate independent legislative proposals regarding the operations of the National Assembly, and take positions on such proposals;

(d) render decisions concerning the correction of the record, as part of proceedings initiated pursuant to Paragraph 66 (3);

(e) recommend to the National Assembly the names of persons to fill vacancies occurring among the chairmen, vice chairmen, and members of standing and temporary committees;

(f) settle disputed issues related to the operations of the National Assembly;

(g) designate a National Assembly vice president to substitute for the president of the National Assembly pursuant to Paragraph 20 (2), in case of the president's long-term impediment;

(h) take positions on issues pertaining to the organizing of international relations, and perform preparatory work for festive events;

(i) take positions regarding issues related to the openness of parliamentary work to the media;

(j) hold hearings and comment on persons introduced as prospective office holders subject to the appointing authority of the president of the National Assembly;

(k) develop guidelines for preparing the budget of the National Assembly;

(l) debate significant documents (petitions, calls, open letters, etc.) received by the National Assembly (or its officers) at the request of the president of the National Assembly, and comment on possible action related to such documents;

(m) determine the order of verifying absences (Paragraph 44 (3));

(n) recommend that the National Assembly deviate from the House Rules in debating a certain issue (Paragraph 140);

(o) recommend that the National Assembly establish a deadline shorter than the deadline specified in Paragraph 102 (1) for offering amendments of the second degree;

(p) recommend that officers of the National Assembly be relieved of their duties (Paragraph 22 (2));

(q) recommend that an item on the legislative calendar be debated within a certain time frame (Paragraph 53);

(r) recommend that the National Assembly consider similar proposed measures jointly;

(s) publish the proposed legislative calendar of National Assembly plenary meetings 48 hours before each plenary meeting, and depending on the availability of space, provide seats for citizens in the gallery; and

(t) debate other issues proposed by members of the Committee on the House.

Members of the Committee on the House

Paragraph 24

(1) The Committee on the House shall be chaired by the president of the National Assembly; its membership shall be composed of the National Assembly vice presidents, and the leaders of all parliamentary groups.

(2) Only the leaders of parliamentary groups, or, in case of their absence, their deputies shall have the right to vote in the Committee on the House;

Participants in the meetings of the Committee on the House

Paragraph 25

(1) In addition to the members of the Committee on the House, persons invited by the president of the National Assembly may attend the meetings of the Committee on the House.

(2) The representative of the Government shall have a standing invitation to the meetings of the Committee on the House, and may attend such meetings with a right to confer.

The operations of the Committee on the House

Paragraph 26

(1) The president of the National Assembly shall convene and conduct meetings of the Committee on the House.

(2) The Committee on the House shall be convened upon the request of the leader of any parliamentary group.

(3) The Committee on the House shall render decisions based on the unanimous vote of its members. In the absence of unanimity, the National Assembly shall render decisions regarding matters specified under Paragraph 23 (a), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (m); the president of the National Assembly shall render a decision in all other cases.

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(4) A verbatim record shall be maintained of the meetings of the Committee on the House. The order of functioning of the Committee on the House shall be determined by the Committee on the House, in due regard to requirements established in the House Rules.

Chapter 3

Committee chairmen's conference

Paragraph 27

(1) The president of the National Assembly shall be the chairman of the Committee chairmen's conference; its membership shall be composed of the chairmen of the standing committees of the National Assembly.

(2) The Committee chairmen's conference shall make recommendations

(a) to the Committee on the House regarding the weekly work plan of the National Assembly;

(b) to the Committee on the House regarding the schedule of the individual plenary meetings of the National Assembly; and

(c) to the president of the National Assembly regarding the designation of committees (Paragraph 79).

(3) Meetings of the Committee chairmen's conference shall be convened and managed by the president of the National Assembly.

(4) The Committee chairmen's conference shall bring resolutions based on the majority vote of its members. In the Committee chairmen's conference the chairmen of standing committees, or, in case of their impediment, the [standing committee] vice chairmen designated by the chairmen shall have a right to vote.

Chapter 4

COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Establishment of standing committees

Paragraph 28

(1) The National Assembly shall establish its standing committees after being organized.

(2) The number and jurisdiction of standing committees shall essentially correspond with the structure of government. The establishment of standing committees on constitutionality, the budget, foreign affairs, national defense, and further, of a standing committee to deal with immunity and incompatibility issues, as well as with the examination of mandates, is mandatory.

(3) Other than that, the National Assembly may, at any time, establish, change, or discontinue committees at any time.

The jurisdiction of standing committees

Paragraph 29

(1) Standing committees are organs of the National Assembly, which initiate, recommend, and comment on legislation, and which, in cases provided for by law, make decisions and are involved in overseeing governmental action. Standing committees act within the scope of their respective jurisdictions, as defined in the Constitution and other laws, the House Rules, and in other resolutions of the National Assembly.

(2) Standing committees may establish subcommittees composed of their members, for the performance of specific tasks. Rules pertaining to the operation of a standing committee shall be appropriately applied to the operations of its subcommittees, unless otherwise provided for by the subcommittee.

(3) Each standing committee shall establish a subcommittee with authority to oversee the implementation of laws, and their impact on society and the economy.

(4) Committee chairmen shall inform the National Assembly without delay of the establishment a subcommittee.

Paragraph 30

(1) The National Assembly may request a standing committee to draft a proposed law (Paragraph 85), a proposed resolution (Paragraph 87), a political statement (Paragraph 88) or a report (Paragraph 89), (hereinafter jointly: matters to be decided).

(2) The committee designated by the president of the National Assembly shall draft a recommendation (Paragraph 95 (1)-(3)) to matters to be decided, introduced in the National Assembly.

(3) Standing committees may debate any issue within their respective scopes of jurisdiction, and may take positions regarding such issues. Committees may publicize their positions.

Establishing committees

Paragraph 31

(1) The Committee on the House shall propose to the National Assembly the number, designation, function, and the membership size of standing committees, and make recommendations regarding the election of the chairmen, vice chairmen, and members of standing committees, pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 28 and Paragraph 33 (1)-(2), as proposed by the leaders of parliamentary groups.

(2) The president of the National Assembly shall state to the National Assembly the proposal submitted by the Committee on the House. Changes to the proposal may be offered only by the leaders of parliamentary groups, and, with respect to proposals involving persons, only by the leader of the affected representative group; such proposed changes shall be decided by the National Assembly without debate.

Discontinuing mandates to serve on committees

Paragraph 32

(1) The mandate of a National Assembly committee chairman, vice chairman, or member shall cease when

(a) the committee's mandate ceases,

(b) the representative's mandate ceases,

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(c) the representative leaves or is expelled from his parliamentary group, or, in case of an independent representative, when the representative joins a parliamentary group,

(d) the representative is recalled by the parliamentary group,

(e) the parliamentary group ceases to exist, or when,

(f) the representative resigns his mandate.

(2) The National Assembly shall render a decision concerning filling the vacancy on the committee, based on a recommendation made by the Committee on the House, and pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 31.

Committee members

Paragraph 33

(1) The number of representatives from a given parliamentary group taking part as committee members in the workings of a standing committee shall be proportionate to the number of representatives in the given parliamentary group.

(2) The leaders of parliamentary groups may reach agreements to deviate from the ratio set in Section (1), but at least one representative from each parliamentary group shall be seated in each standing committee.

(3) The National Assembly may decide that the memberships of certain committees be equally divided between the members of ruling party parliamentary groups, and opposition parliamentary groups (parity committees).

Temporary committees

Paragraph 34

(1) The National Assembly may delegate investigative committees to examine any issue, and further, the National Assembly may form ad hoc committees to act on matters designated in the resolution establishing such a committee, for the time specified in the resolution (investigative and ad hoc committees hereinafter jointly: temporary committees).

(2) No amendment shall be offered to proposed resolutions for the establishment of temporary committees.

Separate rules pertaining to ad hoc committees

Paragraph 35

(1) The National Assembly shall determine the function, designation, membership size, and jurisdictional scope of ad hoc committees at the time of their establishment.

(2) The provisions of Paragraph 31 shall be applied to the nomination and election of the chairmen, officers and members of ad hoc committees, and the provisions of Paragraph 32 shall be applied to the termination of the mandates of these persons, provided that not more than half the number of ad hoc committee members may also be selected from among persons other than National Assembly representatives.

(3) Unless otherwise provided for by the National Assembly or the ad hoc committee, rules governing the operations of standing committees shall be appropriately applied to ad hoc committees. The chairmen and the vice chairmen of ad hoc committees shall be representatives, and ad hoc committee members who are not representatives shall not be entitled to vote.

Separate rules applicable to investigating committees

Paragraph 36

(1) Provisions pertaining to ad hoc committees shall be applied to the establishment, operation, designation, the definition of the subject of investigation, and the termination of an investigating committee, except as provided for in this Paragraph.

(2) An investigating committee shall be established if at least one-fifth the total number of representatives proposes the establishment of such a committee.

(3) All members of an investigating committee shall be National Assembly representatives.

(4) Investigating committees shall be constituted pursuant to Paragraph 33. The chairman of an investigating committee examining the activities of the Government, any governmental organ, or a ministry shall be a representative in opposition to the Government subject to investigation.

(5) The investigating committee shall prepare a report on its activities; such report shall state the following:

(a) the task assigned to the committee;

(b) procedural rules established by the committee, and the methods of investigation;

(c) the factual and legal findings made by the committee;

(d) evidence that served as the basis for the findings;

(e) comments made by the organ or person investigated regarding the methods and findings of the completed investigation;

(f) recommended necessary action, insofar as making such recommendation is part of the committee's function.

(6) No amendments shall be offered regarding the designation of an investigating committee, or the subject of investigation.

Substituting committee members

Paragraph 37

(1) Committee meetings may be attended by committee members in person, or by their designated substitutes.

(2) A committee member absent from a committee meeting may designate a substitute in the person of another member of the same committee only (hereinafter: substitute), and for each committee meeting separately.

(3) Authorizations for substitute representation shall not extend to more than one committee meeting.

(4) An authorization for substitute representation pursuant to *Appendix 2* of the House Rules shall be presented to the committee chairman before the opening of the committee meeting, alternatively, the committee

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member authorizing representation may, in the course of an earlier meeting, incorporate a statement to that effect in the record of the committee meeting. Authorizations to represent shall be attached to the record of the committee meeting.

(5) The rights and duties of a substitute are identical to those of the committee member. Substitution shall not extend to the exercise of the authority of committee chairmen and vice chairmen.

(6) Any substitute shall represent only one committee member at any given committee meeting.

PART IV

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chapter 1

GENERAL RULES

The sessions and plenary meetings of the National Assembly.

Paragraph 38

(1) The National Assembly convenes for two sessions each year: the first session starting on 1 February and ending on 15 June, and the second session starting on 1 September and ending on 15 December.

(2) Each session consists of plenary meetings, and each plenary meeting consists of legislative days. The expected number of legislative days shall be indicated when convening plenary meetings.

(3) Upon convening the National Assembly—preferably within 30 days after constituting the National Assembly, or at the end of each session—the National Assembly shall adopt the legislative program and order of business for the next session, based on the joint recommendation of the Committee on the House, and the Government.

Special sessions and special plenary meetings

Paragraph 39

(1) The National Assembly shall be convened in special session or special plenary meeting upon the written request of the president of the Republic, the Government, or one-fifth the number of representatives. Such request shall state the reason for convening the National Assembly, the recommended date, and the agenda. The president of the National Assembly shall convene the National Assembly on the date recommended, failing that, in no event later than eight days after the date recommended.

(2) The president of the National Assembly shall convene a special session or special plenary meeting in cases specified in the Constitution and the House Rules.

(3) If convening a special session or special plenary meeting is requested in order to consider an independent legislative proposal, the proposal recommended to be placed on the legislative calendar shall be attached to the request.

(4) Independent legislative proposals advanced by those specified in Section (1) and requested to be placed on the legislative calendar shall be the only proposals placed on the legislative calendar of special sessions or special plenary meetings.

(5) The provisions of Sections (3)-(4) shall not be applied to interpellations and questions raised during a special session or special plenary meeting.

The language of discourse

Paragraph 40

(1) The Hungarian language shall be the language of discourse at National Assembly plenary meetings.

(2) A representative may address the National Assembly in his native language, if his native language is not the Hungarian language. Such representative shall indicate his intent to speak in his native language one day prior to the legislative day for which his statement is scheduled. The Office of the National Assembly shall provide for interpretation services.

(3) At their request, continuous interpretation shall be provided to representatives whose native language is not Hungarian.

(4) At the request of representatives whose native language is not Hungarian, the Office of the National Assembly shall have the official documents of the National Assembly translated into the representatives' native languages.

Openness

Paragraph 41

(1) The plenary meetings of the National Assembly shall be open to the public. The records of National Assembly plenary meetings, attachments for the archives, and computerized voting records shall be accessible to the public at the National Assembly Library.

(2) The National Assembly may decide to hold a closed plenary meeting at the request of the president of the Republic, the Government, or any representative, if such request is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the representatives.

(3) State secrets, official secrets, and other data appearing in the records of closed plenary meetings that cannot be made public shall be treated by the president of the National Assembly as secret.

(4) The National Assembly shall render a separate decision regarding the secret nature of decisions made at closed plenary meetings.

Paragraph 42

(1) At plenary meetings open to the public, the public, including representatives of the mass media, shall occupy places only in designated parts of the gallery, and shall abstain from expressing opinions in any form.

(2) The president may expel the entire audience, or part of the audience, if the order of a plenary meeting is disturbed.

(3) In closed plenary meetings, only the persons having a right to confer (Paragraph 45 (1)), the executive secretary of the National Assembly, the designated employees of

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the Office of the National Assembly, and the recording clerks may be present in addition to the representatives.

Quorum

Paragraph 43

(1) The presence of more than half the number of representatives, or a different proportion required by the Constitution or by law, shall constitute a quorum.

(2) In the absence of a quorum, the president shall make an attempt to restore the quorum. If the president fails in this regard, he shall determine the names of the missing representatives, postpone the vote on the legislation pending before the House, and shall, without further notice, announce the list of absent representatives at the next plenary meeting of the National Assembly. The plenary meeting shall then be continued by debating the next item on the legislative calendar. If the president subsequently determines the presence of a quorum, he may decide to return to the postponed legislative calendar item, and call for a vote.

(3) The National Assembly shall vote by the show of hands (Paragraph 60 (2) (a)) when approving the legislative calendar or rules of procedure, or in instances described in Paragraph 51 (5).

Presence

Paragraph 44

(1) It is the duty of representatives to be present when votes are cast in the National Assembly.

(2) The amount of the basic fee to which representatives are entitled shall be proportionately reduced, if a representative is absent without cause from more than one third the number of votes scheduled on the legislative calendar in any given month.

(3) The Committee on the House shall establish rules for implementing the provisions of Section (2).

Participants in National Assembly plenary meetings

Paragraph 45

(1) The president of the Republic, any member of the Government, the chief justice of the Constitutional Court, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the supreme prosecutor, the National Assembly commissioner, and the chairman of the State Accounting Office may attend, and speak at National Assembly plenary meetings, the chairman of the Economic Competition Office may attend, but not speak at National Assembly plenary meetings.

(2) The president of the Republic, the prime minister, and members of the Government, if authorized by the Government, may speak at any time, unless otherwise provided for in the House Rules.

(3) An independent legislative proposal advanced by a person specified in Section (1) and placed on the legislative calendar shall not be considered in the absence of that person or his deputy.

(4) A member of the Government, or his authorized deputy shall attend a National Assembly plenary meeting if a proposed law, resolution, or report under consideration involves his function.

(5) Except for the president of the Republic, the chief justice of the Constitutional Court, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the National Assembly may require the persons enumerated in Section (1) to appear at a plenary meeting of the National Assembly.

(6) The executive secretary, or, in his absence, his deputy, shall attend the plenary meetings of the National Assembly, but shall not speak.

Announcing the introduction of independent legislative proposals

Paragraph 46

(1) At the start of each plenary meeting, the president shall report on the independent legislative proposals introduced (Paragraph 84 (1)), as well as on requests for urgent consideration (Paragraph 92).

(2) The proponent of an independent legislative proposal or a motion of urgency may verbally justify his proposal or motion in a statement consuming not more than two minutes. The National Assembly shall vote without debate on the matter of urgency at the plenary meeting that follows the plenary meeting in which the proponent moved.

(3) If urgent debate on a proposed law or resolution is requested, and if the passage of such law or resolution requires the affirmative vote of a majority other than a simple majority, the same majority requirement shall exist with respect to the adoption of the motion of urgency.

Establishing the legislative calendar

Paragraph 47

(1) The president shall propose a legislative calendar for each plenary meeting based on the recommendation of the Committee on the House. The recommendation of the Committee on the House shall be forwarded to all representatives and to persons enumerated in Paragraph 45 (1) no later than two days before the plenary meeting.

(2) Except for votes that cannot be scheduled in advance, such as procedural votes, the anticipated time of voting shall be indicated in the proposed legislative calendar.

(3) Prior to the opening of a plenary meeting, the Government, or at least 15 representatives may propose changes in the proposed legislative calendar; such proposals shall be supported by reasoned argument.

(4) At the plenary meeting, the president shall report the legislative calendar proposed by the Committee on the House, proposals to deviate from the recommended legislative calendar, and recommendations by the Committee on the House regarding time available for deliberation, and the time allotted for making remarks.

(5) If a proposed law or proposed resolution is attached to a report, or if a proposed resolution is attached to a proposed law, the proposals shall be debated jointly.

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(6) The National Assembly shall vote without debate on proposals specified in Section (4), but first on proposals for changing the proposed legislative calendar.

Conducting plenary meetings

Paragraph 48

(1) The president shall open, conduct, and adjourn the plenary meetings. Before adjourning a plenary meeting, he shall provide for convening the next plenary meeting, pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee on the House, or based on a resolution passed by the National Assembly.

(2) After hearing the views of the vice presidents, the president shall determine the time and sequence in which the vice presidents chair the plenary meeting of the National Assembly.

(3) If an insufficient number of elected clerks is present at a plenary meeting of the National Assembly, the presiding officer conducting the plenary meeting shall request another National Assembly representative to perform the functions of the clerk.

The opening of debate

Paragraph 49

The president shall open debate on all items appearing on the legislative calendar, unless this is ruled out or conditioned by the House Rules.

Remarks related to the legislative calendar

Paragraph 50

(1) A representative desiring to speak to an item on the legislative calendar shall state his intent to speak in writing to the clerk on duty prior to the opening of the legislative day.

(2) Additional or repeated statements during debate shall be made subject to permission received from the president.

(3) The president shall determine the sequence in which representatives make their remarks, preferably alternating between a ruling party representative and an opposition representative, chosen from a different parliamentary group in each turn.

(4) During debate, any representative may seek an opportunity to make a two-minute statement related to a prior statement. Such statements shall be made subject to the president recognizing the speaker.

(5) The proponent of a matter on the legislative calendar, and the chairman (spokesman) of the committee having jurisdiction may speak at any time before the National Assembly makes its decision.

(6) After voting on the final passage of a proposed law (Paragraph 106 (9)) each parliamentary group may justify its vote in statements not exceeding three minutes.

(7) If the president denies the floor in cases specified in Sections (2) and (4), the National Assembly shall vote regarding the denial without debate, at the request of the representative to whom the floor was denied.

Addressing matters not on the legislative calendar

Paragraph 51

(1) Matters of national significance, and extraordinary matters that cannot be delayed, but not on the legislative calendar (hereinafter: extraordinary matters) shall be presented before considering matters on the legislative calendar for a given legislative day; such presentations shall include statements of the subject matter and reasons for the statement, and shall be made by the leader of a parliamentary group, on behalf of the parliamentary group, in a time frame not exceeding five minutes. The intent to make such statement shall be announced in writing to the president, at least one hour before the opening of the plenary meeting. The president shall inform the Government and the chairman of the committee having jurisdiction about the expressed intent to speak, designating the subject of, and reason for the presentation.

(2) A representative whose immunity has been suspended by the National Assembly shall be entitled to inform the National Assembly in a two minute statement prior to debating pending legislation on the calendar, of the final conclusion of proceedings against him. The intent to make such statement shall be announced in writing to the president, at least one hour before the opening of the plenary meeting.

(3) Any representative may announce his intent to speak regarding an extraordinary matter after disposing of the items on the legislative calendar, in the manner described in Section (1), except for the time limitation.

(4) The Government representative, the chairman of the standing committee, the representative whose person is involved, and the leader of the parliamentary group may seek the floor for two minutes to comment relative to statements specified in Sections (1) and (3).

(5) If the president denies the floor in cases specified in Sections (3) and (4), the National Assembly shall vote without debate regarding the denial, if so requested by the representative to whom the floor was denied.

(6) No debate shall take place, and no resolution shall be passed regarding such presentations.

Points of order

Paragraph 52

(1) Any representative may seek the floor at any time for five minutes, and may address a procedural matter related to the legislative calendar or to a matter on the legislative calendar being debated. After making a point of order, not more than one representative per parliamentary group, and the first independent representative seeking the floor may be recognized to speak, otherwise the National Assembly shall vote on the proposal without debate.

(2) The president shall give priority in recognizing the representative who makes a point of order.

Time limitation for deliberations

Paragraph 53

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(1) At the recommendation of the Committee on the House, the National Assembly may decide to limit the time available for the consideration of any given matter on the legislative calendar. Prior to making such decision, the leader of any parliamentary group may speak to the subject for five minutes.

(2) Separate time schedules shall be established for general debate, section-by-section debate, and closing debate.

(3) The time available shall be distributed as follows:

(a) equal time shall be allotted to both ruling party and opposition party representatives;

(b) the opening and closing remarks of the proponent of a legislative proposal, reports by the majority and by the minority, if any, of the committee to which the proposal was referred, and the closing statements of parliamentary groups (Paragraph 50 (6)) shall not be charged against the time allotted;

(c) the time consumed by a member of the government during debate shall be charged against the time allotted to ruling party representatives;

(d) half of the time available shall be equally distributed between the parliamentary groups of the ruling parties and the opposition parties, the other half shall be distributed in proportion to the number of representatives in each parliamentary group, with independent representatives counted among representatives in the opposition, allotting a minimum of thirty minutes for each parliamentary group;

(e) excluding responses of a personal nature, two minute speeches made during debate shall be charged against the time allotted;

(f) remarks related to procedure shall not be charged against the time allotted.

(4) At the request of no less than 15 representatives, the time available for general debate shall not exceed

(a) Ten hours, if the debate pertains to the consideration of a legislative proposal requiring the vote of more than a simple majority, or to debate over a government program or a government report, or if the debate involves a no confidence motion against the prime minister,

(b) Thirty hours if the debate pertains to the consideration of a legislative proposal concerning the annual budget of the Hungarian Republic,

(c) Fifteen hours, if the debate pertains to the implementation of the annual budget of the Hungarian Republic, or a legislative proposal pertaining to the budget that finances social security,

(d) eight hours, if the debate pertains to the implementation of the budget that finances social security.

(5) The clerk on duty shall keep track of the time consumed, and shall aggregate the time consumed by each parliamentary group separately. The clerk shall also inform the president when the time of a parliamentary group or a representative expires.

Relevance and call to order

Paragraph 54

(1) The president shall call upon a speaker who deviates from the subject of discussion, to return to the subject, and shall warn him of the consequences should the president's call produce no results.

(2) If a speaker offends the prestige of the National Assembly, or of a fellow National Assembly representative while he holds the floor, or if he otherwise violates the order of business and voting rules specified in the House Rules, he shall be reprimanded by the president, and shall be warned about the consequences if he has to be called upon for a second time.

(3) If it becomes necessary to call upon a representative for a third time to return to the subject matter under consideration while making his speech, the president shall withdraw that representative's right to speak. A representative's right to speak shall not be withdrawn, if, in the course of calling upon the representative in the first and second instances, the president fails to warn him of the pending consequences.

(4) When the time of a representative expires (Paragraph 53), the president shall withdraw that representative's right to speak after warning him once.

(5) A representative whose right has been withdrawn shall not speak again on the same subject on the same legislative day.

(6) In applying the provisions of Section (5),

(a) the general, section-by-section, and closing debates,

(b) two-minute remarks in the course of any debate,

(c) the statement of an interpellation and the response by the representative to the response to the interpellation, and

(d) statements pertaining to procedure

shall be regarded as separate matters.

Interrupting a session

Paragraph 55

(1) The president may interrupt a session of the National Assembly for a certain period of time, if a disturbance during a session makes continued deliberations impossible.

(2) The president shall leave his chair, if his plea is disregarded; with that, the session shall be deemed to be interrupted, and the National Assembly shall continue its deliberations when reconvened by the president.

Ordering recess

Paragraph 56

At the request of the government, or of the leader of any parliamentary group, the president may order a recess on one occasion in the course of considering an item on the legislative calendar, or while a decision is being made.

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The length of a recess shall be at the discretion of the president, but shall not exceed two hours.

Adjourning a meeting

Paragraph 57

(1) The president of the Republic may adjourn a National Assembly meeting on one occasion during any given session, for not more than 30 days. The adjournment shall be announced in writing to the president of the National Assembly.

(2) At the written request of one-fifth the number of representatives, the president of the National Assembly shall convene the National Assembly for a day within eight days of the request, during adjournment.

Postponing consideration of an item on the legislative calendar

Paragraph 58

(1) The proponent of legislation already placed on the legislative calendar may move to postpone consideration. The National Assembly shall render a decision in regard to such motion without debate.

(2) Postponed legislation pending on the calendar shall be regarded as withdrawn, if the proponent of the legislation fails to seek continued debate within eight days from the postponement.

(3) A motion to close debate shall have precedence over a motion to postpone debate in the course of voting.

Termination of debate

Paragraph 59

(1) The president shall terminate debate if no additional representatives wish to speak to a legislative proposal, or to a section debated in the course of the section-by-section debate, and when the legislative calendar indicates the anticipated time for terminating debate.

(2) The proponent of a legislative proposal, or at least 15 representatives may request in writing the termination of debate, provided that every parliamentary group had an opportunity to express its position regarding the legislative proposal, or regarding the section subject to debate in the course of section-by-section debate. The National Assembly shall render a decision in this regard without debate. If the request for terminating debate applies to a section of the legislative proposal being debated, debate over that section shall be terminated.

(3) Once the National Assembly terminates debate, one representative from each parliamentary group, and the independent representative first seeking the floor, as well as the chairman (spokesman) of the designated committee shall be recognized for not more than five minutes.

(4) Once the National Assembly terminates debate, the proponent of the legislation shall have the last word.

(5) The provisions of Sections (2) and (3) shall not be applied if time limits were established.

Open voting

Paragraph 60

(1) The National Assembly shall render its decisions by casting open votes, except in cases specified in the Constitution, by law, or in the House Rules.

(2) Open balloting may take place by

(a) the raising of hands;

(b) vote tallying machine; or

(c) the joint use of the raising of hands and vote tallying machine.

(3) The president shall determine the balloting results. In case of doubt regarding votes cast by the raising of hands, the balloting shall be repeated by using a vote tallying machine, if so requested by any representative.

(4) The National Assembly shall determine the method of open voting, based on the recommendation of the Committee on the House.

(5) The National Assembly shall render a decision without debate regarding recommendations made pursuant to Sections (3) and (4).

(6) If open votes are counted by a vote tallying machine (Section (2) (b) and (c)), a certified copy of the computerized list showing the votes shall be attached to the record of the plenary meeting, and shall be preserved.

Recorded vote

Paragraph 61

(1) At the request of at least one parliamentary group, a recorded vote shall be taken after open balloting. Each parliamentary group may recommend a recorded vote only on one occasion regarding one and the same decision.

(2) No recorded vote shall be taken regarding the size and composition of committees, or with respect to issues related to deliberations (that contain procedural motions).

Paragraph 62

(1) When recorded votes are taken, the clerk shall call on each representative in alphabetical order. The representatives shall stand up and vote by saying "yes," "no," or "abstention."

(2) The clerk shall enter the votes cast on the roster of representatives, shall count the votes, and shall hand the results of the vote, together with the roster, to the president. The president shall announce the results.

(3) A separate, certified roster shall be attached to the record of the plenary meeting.

Secret ballot

Paragraph 63

(1) Secret balloting shall be ordered in cases specified by the Constitution, other law, or the House Rules.

(2) The clerks shall act as a vote tallying committee when secret votes are cast.

(3) Votes shall be cast by placing ballots in an envelope, and the envelopes into a ballot box in a voting booth.

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(4) A record of the vote, signed by the clerks, shall be prepared.

The order of voting

Paragraph 64

(1) Except as provided for by the Constitution, separate law, or the House Rules, the National Assembly shall render its decisions based on the vote of more than half the number of representatives present.

(2) Votes shall be cast by saying "yes," "no," or "I abstain."

(3) The president shall cast his vote only in the course of open balloting and only in case of a tie vote, after all votes are cast, and in such case the vote cast by the president shall be the decisive vote. A nonvoting president shall not be regarded as present when determining the results of voting.

(4) Balloting shall be repeated in case of a tie vote cast in secret balloting.

(5) Votes shall be cast in person.

(6) The president shall announce the balloting results.

The record

Paragraph 65

(1) A verbatim record certified by the clerks on duty shall be maintained of every word said in plenary meetings of the National Assembly.

(2) Appendixes to the record shall be as follows:

(a) the document being considered,

(b) the document read,

(c) the roster of representatives casting recorded votes,

(d) the record of secret balloting,

(e) the signed affidavit,

(f) questions requiring written answers, and the answers given to the questions.

(3) The computerized voting list shall be appended to the record.

Paragraph 66

(1) The president of the National Assembly shall provide for preparing the record.

(2) Any statement, remark, and interjection made during a plenary meeting shall be recorded in the verbatim record; expressions of approval or disapproval shall also be recorded.

(3) A representative or another person making remarks may request that his statement be corrected, if erroneously shown in the record. Such request shall be made within three days after the record is certified and is available for public viewing. The Committee on the House shall render decisions concerning corrections, after hearing the views of the certifying clerks.

(4) Within 15 days after the procedure described in Section (3), the printed verbatim record, without appendixes, shall be distributed to National Assembly representatives, the president of the Republic, members of the Government, the chief justice of the Constitutional Court, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the supreme prosecutor, National Assembly commissioners, the chairman of the State Accounting Office, and the president of the Hungarian National Bank, and shall be forwarded to the Budapest, county, and university libraries.

(5) A National Assembly Diary containing subject and name indexes shall be published for each session based on the records. The president of the National Assembly shall provide for the publication of the Diary.

(6) The verbatim record and the National Assembly Diary shall be deposited in the Library of the National Assembly.

Chapter 2

ORDER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Paragraph 67

(1) Following their establishment, committees shall define their order of meetings.

(2) Committees shall meet regularly when the National Assembly is in session.

(3) A committee shall meet between two sessions, if the Committee on the House, or at least one-fifth of the committee members so request in writing.

(4) Committees may meet while the National Assembly holds plenary meetings, except during balloting.

(5) Committee meetings shall be convened based on written invitations by the chairman, also containing the proposed committee meeting agenda. In exceptional cases the proposed committee meeting agenda may be conveyed orally.

The openness of committee meetings

Paragraph 68

(1) Committee meetings shall be open to the press.

(2) The proponent of legislation under consideration, and any representative offering an amendment (or an amendment of the second degree) to the pending matter may attend the meeting with a right to confer. Other representatives may comment on the matter under consideration subject to the concurrence of a majority of the committee members.

(3) The committee shall hold a hearing if requested by two-fifths of the number of committee members.

(4) A minister, who testifies before a committee before his appointment, shall be heard by that committee at least once every year.

Paragraph 69

(1) Committees may hold closed meeting in order to protect state secrets, official secrets, and other data not

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to be publicized. The committee may order a closed hearing upon recommendation by the proponent, or any member of the committee.

(2) Closed meetings may be attended by the president of the Republic, the president of the National Assembly, the members of the committee, and by persons invited by the committee chairman in conjunction with one or another item on the committee meeting agenda. A majority of the committee may also agree to the attendance of other National Assembly representatives, who are not members of the committee. Unless the committee decides otherwise, employees of the Office of the National Assembly assigned on staff duty to the committee, as well as recording clerks may also attend closed meetings.

(3) National Assembly representatives shall not be excluded from closed meetings ordered in exceptional proceedings.

Quorum, the capability to deliberate

Paragraph 70

(1) The presence of half the number of committee members shall constitute a quorum. From the standpoint of quorum, a representative who authorizes a substitute to cast proxy votes shall be considered as present.

(2) The presence of more than one-third the number of committee members shall enable a committee to deliberate. The committee's ability to deliberate shall be determined only if questioned by any member of the committee. From the standpoint of a committee's ability to deliberate, a representative who authorizes a substitute to cast a proxy vote shall be considered as present.

(3) If a quorum is absent at a given committee meeting, a ruling establishing the presence of a quorum shall be made at the next committee meeting with respect to matters scheduled for the previous meeting, irrespective of the number of committee members present, provided that the invitation to the next committee meeting convened at a date later than 24 hours after the first meeting calls the attention of representatives to this consequence, and further provided that the chairman (vice chairman), and at least one ruling party, and one opposition party representatives are present at that meeting. A repeat committee meeting prompted by the absence of a quorum may be held within 24 hours after the first meeting only if at least half the number of all committee members is present, and vote for holding the meeting. A meeting thus repeated may only be held if at least one opposition representative is present.

(4) The provisions of Section (3) shall not be applied in case of exceptional proceedings.

Persons invited to committee meetings

Paragraph 71

(1) The proponent of a matter on the committee meeting agenda, the president of the Republic, the president of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Commissioner, the chairman of the State Accounting Office, and the member of the Government whose functions are affected by the legislation under consideration, shall receive an invitation when convening the meeting of a standing committee.

(2) Persons invited pursuant to Section (1) attend the committee meeting and deliberations of a matter on the committee meeting agenda under consideration, with a right to confer. Invited persons may be represented by a person authorized to substitute for them. A representative of the Government vested with decision-making authority shall attend the meeting.

Paragraph 72

A representative offering an amendment (or an amendment of the second degree) to a proposed law, proposed resolution, or draft political statement shall be notified of the committee meeting, preferably a day in advance. The proposal may be judged even in the absence of the representative notified.

Experts

Paragraph 73

(1) Committee chairmen may invite experts with a right to confer, to attend committee meetings. Members of committees may propose the invitation of experts, with or without naming the experts; the committee shall render decisions regarding such proposals.

(2) Members of parliamentary groups may bring along one expert per parliamentary group to committee meetings, to observe the consideration of a given matter pending on the committee meeting agenda. These experts may speak at committee meetings only if authorized by the committee.

Managing committee meetings

Paragraph 74

(1) The committee chairman shall plan, convene, and conduct the committee's meetings.

(2) The committee chairman shall recognize persons wanting to speak, maintain order, tally the votes cast, state the committee's decision, and sign the record of meetings.

(3) Each committee of the National Assembly shall elect a vice chairman (vice chairmen). The committee vice chairmen perform functions assigned to them by their respective chairmen.

(4) The vice chairman designated by the chairman shall substitute for the chairman in case of the chairman's long-term impediment. The rights and duties of the vice chairman substituting for the chairman shall be identical to those of the chairman.

Establishing the committee meeting agenda

Paragraph 75

(1) The committee chairman shall determine the committee meeting agenda after opening the meeting, based on the chairman's written proposal forwarded in

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advance to the committee members. Prior to the meeting, any member of the committee may propose in writing to the committee chairman that additional matters be placed on the committee meeting agenda; the chairman shall forward such proposals to the rest of the committee members prior to the committee meeting.

(2) The committee may change the committee meeting agenda in the course of a meeting, but it may expand the agenda only with the concurrence of more than two-thirds the number of committee members present.

(3) The committee may limit the length of comments by recognizing each parliamentary group for an equal length of time.

The closing of debate

Paragraph 76

Debate over a matter on the committee meeting agenda shall be closed pursuant to the rules specified in Paragraph 59, provided that closing of debate is recommended by any representative.

Voting

Paragraph 77

(1) Unless otherwise provided for in the House Rules, committees bring their resolutions based on a simple majority vote of their members present.

(2) Committee chairmen shall cast their votes with the committee members.

(3) Positions taken by committees shall be reported to the plenary meeting of the National Assembly by a spokesman designated by the committee.

(4) After balloting, committee members in the minority may file a minority report. The minority report shall be presented to the plenary meeting of the National Assembly by a spokesman chosen by representatives in the minority, after presentation of the majority report.

The record

Paragraph 78

(1) Verbatim records shall be prepared of open committee meetings, and shall be certified by the committee chairmen.

(2) The provisions of Paragraphs 65 and 66 shall be appropriately applied in regard to the preparation of the record, with the following changes:

(a) at the committee meeting immediately following the release of the committee meeting record for public viewing, the committee chairman shall recommend correction of erroneous material included in the record, and the committee shall render a decision regarding the chairman's recommendation without debate;

(b) one copy of the verbatim record shall be deposited with the committee secretariat, and another copy with the Library. Persons authorized to participate in the committee meeting shall also be given a copy of the verbatim record, if so requested.

(3) If records are kept of closed meetings, the chairman shall treat parts of the record containing state secrets, official secrets, and other date not to be publicized as secret documents.

Designation of a committee

Paragraph 79

(1) The president of the National Assembly, in due regard to the provisions of the House Rules shall

(a) designate a committee which may request the views of other committees to draft a matter to be decided or a committee recommendation, or

(b) designate two or more committees, or

(c) recommend to the National Assembly the establishment of an ad hoc committee.

(2) A committee not designated by the president of the National Assembly, may submit its views to the National Assembly concerning a pending proposed law, proposed resolution, or draft political statement referred to another committee by offering an amendment, if it disagrees with the proposal.

Joint proceedings by several committees

Paragraph 80

(1) Several committees proceeding jointly may hold joint meetings.

(2) Each committee shall cast its votes separately at joint meetings.

(3) If committees proceeding jointly formulate a common view, the provisions of this chapter shall be appropriately applied regarding the presentation of minority views in the course of formulating the committees' joint view.

Committee operating rules

Paragraph 81

(1) Committees shall establish their own operating rules, in due regard to provisions of the House Rules.

(2) Representatives shall be given an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the views of interest groups and social organizations of a national scope included in the register of these groups and organizations, maintained by the executive secretary of the National Assembly.

(3) If the House Rules or the committee meeting agenda do not contain separate provisions regarding the operations of a committee, provisions applicable to the plenary meetings of the National Assembly shall be appropriately applied in the course of committee deliberations, with the understanding that the term National Assembly proceedings shall mean committee proceedings.

Committee operating expenses

Paragraph 82

(1) Funds to cover the operating expenditures of committees shall be appropriated as part of the National Assembly budget, in the form of a segregated fund.

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(2) To cover the operating expenditures of temporary committees, a committee reserve fund, to be used solely for the purposes of committees, shall be established as part of the National Assembly budget.

Report by representatives participating in delegations abroad

Paragraph 83

National Assembly representatives participating in National Assembly delegations abroad (personal invitations, committee or parliamentary delegations) shall prepare reports for the committee dealing with foreign affairs, and to committees having jurisdiction over matters corresponding to the mission of the delegation.

Chapter 3

CONSIDERING PROPOSALS

1. Independent and nonindependent proposals

Types of proposals

Paragraph 84

(1) The following types of proposals may be placed on the legislative calendar of the National Assembly, as independent items on the calendar (hereinafter: independent proposals):

(a) laws,

(b) resolutions,

(c) political declarations,

(d) reports,

(e) interpellations,

(f) questions.

(2) The following types of proposals may be submitted in conjunction with independent proposals (hereinafter: nonindependent proposals):

(a) motions to consider urgently,

(b) motions to consider in excepted proceedings,

(c) amendments,

(d) committee recommendations.

(3) Materials other than those enumerated in Section (1) shall not be placed on the legislative calendar of the National Assembly. Other recommendations, petitions and proposals that may be submitted pursuant to the House Rules, do not qualify as proposals pursuant to Sections (1) or (2); the appropriate provisions of the House Rules shall be applied to these.

Proposed law

Paragraph 85

(1) A proposed law is intended to create a legal provision that falls under the jurisdiction of the National Assembly; it contains the text and title of the proposed law.

(2) A proposed law may be introduced by

(a) the president of the Republic,

(b) the Government,

(c) a committee of the National Assembly, or

(d) a representative.

(3) Legislative intent shall be appended to proposed laws. The title of the proposed law must indicate if it is intended to amend or repeal an existing law.

Paragraph 86

If several proposed laws regarding the same subject or the same law are introduced during the same period, prior to commencing general debate over a proposed law,

(a) the sequence of precedence in which the proposed laws must be considered shall correspond with the sequence in which the possible sponsors of proposed laws is shown in Paragraph 85 (2); and

(b) the proposed law introduced earlier by persons of equal rank shall have precedence over proposed laws introduced later.

Proposed resolution

Paragraph 87

(1) A proposed resolution is a proposal not requiring the format of law, which seeks a decision from the National Assembly, or provides the text of guidelines or a statement of principle by the National Assembly, containing the recommended text of the resolution, the guidelines, or the statement of principle.

(2) Proposed resolutions may be introduced by those enumerated in Paragraph 85 (2).

(3) Proposed resolutions shall be submitted with characteristic titles and with legislative intents. The title of a proposed resolution shall indicate if the intent of the proposed resolution is to amend or to repeal an existing National Assembly resolution.

Political statement

Paragraph 88

(1) The National Assembly may make a statement regarding any political issue, if supported by two-thirds of the number of representatives.

(2) Draft statements may be submitted by those enumerated in Paragraph 85 (2) (b)-(d).

Reports

Paragraph 89

(1) Reports inform the National Assembly of some action, completed investigation, or the activities of some organ.

(2) Reports may be filed by those enumerated in Paragraph 85 (2) (b) and (c), the chairman of the State Accounting Office, as well as by others required to do so by law.

(3) Statements submitted by those obligated by the Constitution or by separate law to account for their activities shall be regarded as reports in applying provisions of the House Rules.

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(4) Reports may be introduced together with proposed laws and proposed resolutions, if submitted by those authorized to introduce laws or resolutions.

Interpellation

Paragraph 90

(1) Representatives may file interpellations to persons specified in the Constitution, for purposes of requesting an explanation, regarding any matter within such persons' functional scope.

(2) The subject of interpellation shall be stated in the title.

(3) The interpellation shall indicate the person to whom it is addressed, as well as why the person queried is the appropriate person to provide the answer.

(4) Any interpellation not submitted pursuant to Sections (1)-(3) shall be rejected by the president of the National Assembly. The president of the National Assembly shall inform the National Assembly of the rejection on the next legislative day.

Inquiry

Paragraph 91

(1) Representatives may raise questions to persons specified in the Constitution, for purposes of requesting information, regarding any matter within such persons' functional scope.

(2) The subject of the inquiry shall be stated in the title, and a statement as to whether the requester wants to hear a verbal response at the plenary meeting of the National Assembly, or outside the meeting in writing, shall also be included. The provisions of Paragraph 90 (3)-(4) shall also be applied to inquiries.

Motion of urgency

Paragraph 92

(1) The proponent of an independent proposal may move in order for the National Assembly to consider his proposal urgently.

(2) Motions of urgency shall be justified.

(3) The signature of at least 50 representatives supporting the motion or urgency shall be required for the motion to prevail.

Motion to consider in excepted proceedings

Paragraph 93

The organization, entity, or person introducing a proposed law or a proposed resolution may recommend to the National Assembly or move that his proposal be considered in the framework of excepted proceedings (Paragraphs 124-128).

Proposed amendment

Paragraph 94

(1) Except in cases specified in the House Rules, any committee of the National Assembly, and any National Assembly representative may offer amendments to proposed laws, proposed resolutions, or draft political statements.

(2) Except as provided for in Paragraph 107 (1), proponents of legislation shall not offer amendments to their own proposals.

(3) If a proposed law or proposed resolution already introduced amends an existing legal provision or National Assembly resolution, the amendment shall not cover parts of the legal provision or resolution not affected by the amendment, unless this becomes obviously necessary due to the content of the appropriately drafted amendment.

(4) The intent of amendments offered shall be explained.

(5) If an amendment potentially increases the expenditures, or decreases the revenues of the central budget, the recommended solution for preserving the budgetary balance shall also be indicated.

Committee recommendation

Paragraph 95

(1) The chairmen of designated committees shall submit to the National Assembly their committees' recommendations regarding proposed laws, proposed resolutions, draft political statements, and reports, that have been referred to the committee by the president of the National Assembly, and in case of proposed laws, proposed resolutions, and political statements, also regarding the amendments offered.

(2) When designated committees make recommendations for the general debate of proposed laws, they shall also examine the proposed laws from the standpoint of provisions contained in Paragraph 101 (1) and Paragraph 97 (2).

(3) As part of recommendations prepared by designated committees for section-by-section debate over proposed laws, the committees shall also examine whether the proposed law, proposed resolution, or amendments thereto supported by the committee

(a) are consistent with the Constitution and with other law, and whether the legislation is adaptable to Hungarian laws in force,

(b) whether contradictions exist in the legislation, and

(c) whether the language and drafting of the proposed legislation is appropriate.

(4) In response to a written proposal by the president of the National Assembly, or at least 15 representatives, the National Assembly may establish a deadline for receiving a committee recommendation. In establishing a deadline, the committee shall be given at least 15 days to prepare its recommendation for general debate, and at least 30 days to prepare its recommendation for section-by-section debate.

Recommendations by the Committees on the Budget, and on the Constitution

Paragraph 96

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(1) Whenever the standing committee that deals with the budget (hereinafter: Budget Committee) proceeds in a capacity other than a designated committee, it shall submit its recommendations at the request of the president of the National Assembly or the designated committee, and further, may submit recommendations on its own initiative regarding any proposed law, proposed resolution, and amendments thereto, which have a significant impact on the central budget.

(2) In its recommendation, the Budget Committee shall assess whether the proposal

(a) is consistent with rules pertaining to the budget, and whether the proposal

(b) can be implemented from the standpoint of the budget, and if so, how.

(3) Whenever the standing committee that deals with constitutional issues (hereinafter: Committee on the Constitution) proceeds in a capacity other than a designated committee, it shall submit recommendations at the request of the president of the National Assembly or the designated committee, and further, may submit recommendations on its own initiative regarding every proposed law, on issues specified in Paragraph 95 (3) (a)-(c). The Committee on the Constitution shall offer amendments, if necessary.

(4) In cases under this Paragraph, provisions applicable to designated committees shall be applied to the Budget Committee and the Committee on the Constitution.

The appropriateness of proposals

Paragraph 97

(1) Proposals shall be presented in a form suitable for debate and decision-making.

(2) The legislative intent accompanying a proposed law or proposed amendment shall indicate the impact of the legislation on society, and the estimated impact on the economy; such estimates shall be presented in numerical terms, if possible.

(3) The president of the National Assembly may order the use of forms for documents to be submitted to him.

(4) The president of the National Assembly may reject proposals submitted in an inappropriate form.

2. Consideration of independent proposals

Consideration of proposed laws

Paragraph 98

(1) Proposed laws shall be submitted to the president of the National Assembly.

(2) The president shall announce the introduction of a proposed law at the next meeting of the National Assembly; at the same time he shall also name the committee to which the proposed law is referred.

(3) A proposed law introduced by a representative shall be placed on the agenda of the National Assembly only if the committee to which the proposed law is referred supports the proposal.

(4) The president of the National Assembly shall refer the proposed law introduced by a representative to the designated committee; the designated committee shall render a decision within 30 days—or within eight days if the proponent seeks urgent consideration—as to whether the proposal should be placed on the agenda. If the designated committee rejects the request to place the proposal on the agenda, the clerk shall state the title of the proposal, the name of its proponent, and the date when the committee made its decision, at the next meeting of the National Assembly.

(5) If the leader of a parliamentary group request on behalf of his parliamentary group that a proposed law introduced by a representative, but rejected by the committee pursuant to Section (4) be placed on the agenda, the National Assembly shall render a decision as to whether to place the proposal on the agenda, after the proponent's remarks not exceeding five minutes. Regarding the placement of a proposal on the agenda, one representative from each parliamentary group, and the independent representative first to announce his intent to speak may speak for not more than two minutes, and the proponent of the proposal may respond to the statements for a period not exceeding two minutes. A request to place a proposal on the agenda may be submitted by any parliamentary group in not more than five instances per session, and only during regular sessions.

Paragraph 99

(1) The proponent of a proposed law may request that his proposal be considered on an urgent basis.

(2) The National Assembly shall render a decision without debate regarding the motion of urgency. If urgent consideration is requested regarding a law whose passage requires the affirmative vote of more than a simple majority, the same majority shall be required for the passage of the motion of urgency.

(3) If the National Assembly orders the urgent consideration of the proposed law, the proposed law shall be placed on the legislative calendar for the meeting of the National Assembly following preparatory work by the committee at the earliest, and in no event later than 30 days from the date when urgent consideration was ordered.

Paragraph 100

Based on its own decision, the National Assembly may consider a proposed law in two steps, considering first the principles underlying the proposal, and second the final text of the proposed law.

Paragraph 101

(1) Consideration of proposed laws shall begin with general debate. General debate shall concentrate on the need for the proposed law as a whole, or for certain parts of the proposed law, on the regulatory principles reflected by the law, and on whether the proposed law can be committed to section-by-section debate. Debate may also extend to the provisions of Paragraph 95 (3) (a).

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(2) General debate shall be scheduled so that representatives receive the designated committee's recommendation on the proposal for general debate at least three days before the opening of general debate, if the recommendation is in a written form. This rule may be waived in case of urgent consideration.

(3) During debate, the proponent of the proposed law shall have the floor first, followed by the Government representative, if the Government is not the proponent of the proposal. Thereafter the spokesman of the designated committee shall summarize the committee's recommendation, and a member of the committee in the minority shall present the minority report, if any. Thereafter the chairman (spokesman) of the committee not designated, but whose jurisdiction would be affected by the proposed law shall speak, to be followed by members of each parliamentary group, and the independent representatives. The proponent of the proposed law shall be permitted to respond prior to closing general debate to statements made.

Paragraph 102

(1) Amendments to the proposed law may be offered until the close of general debate, further amendments of the second degree may be offered until the close of section-by-section debate. The designated committee, as well as the Committee on the Constitution may offer amendments until termination of the closing debate in proceedings pursuant to Paragraph 96 (3). The National Assembly may establish shorter deadlines for offering amendments of the second degree, if so recommended by the Committee on the House. These rules shall not apply to proposed amendments defined in Paragraph 107 (1).

(2) The president shall refer proposed amendments to the designated committee for comment.

(3) The designated committee shall evaluate the proposed amendments, and state whether it supports the proposed amendments. The designated committee's assessment of the proposed amendments shall be presented to the National Assembly as part of the committee's recommendation regarding section-by-section debate.

(4) The president shall refer amendments of the second degree to the designated committee for its views. The committee shall inform the National Assembly of its views on amendments of the second degree in the manner specified in Section (3), in the form of a supplementary recommendation.

Paragraph 103

(1) The proponent of a proposed law may withdraw his proposal at any time prior to voting on final passage, but doing so after the closing of section-by-section debate requires the concurrence of the National Assembly.

(2) The proponent of a proposed law may request the return of his proposal for purposes of revision, pursuant to rules provided in Section (1). A revised and reintroduced proposed law shall be considered on an urgent basis, except if the National Assembly has not begun considering the proposal, or if more than three months have passed since requesting the return, and the reintroduction of the proposal.

(3) The proponent of an amendment (or amendment of the second degree) may alter his proposed amendment until the closing of the section-by-section debate, and may withdraw his amendment at any time, prior to the start of voting. Such withdrawal shall not affect the validity of an amendment of the second degree to the withdrawn amendment. Debate over an amendment may continue, if another representative maintains the withdrawn amendment in an unchanged form, and so states after withdrawal.

(4) If the proponent of an amendment (or amendment of the second degree) changes his proposed amendment, the National Assembly shall render a decision whether it wants to refer the changed amendment to the designated committee for comment, if that is recommended by the chairman of the designated committee. Rules pertaining to the offering of amendments shall be applied to changing amendments (or amendments of the second degree) offered.

Paragraph 104

(1) The National Assembly shall render a decision after the close of general debate, whether to commit the proposed law for section-by-section debate.

(2) If no amendments are offered prior to the closing of general debate, the president shall serve a reminder that section-by-section debate will be waived unless amendments are offered. If no amendments are offered after the president's statement, the National Assembly shall proceed to vote on the final passage of the proposed law after the closing of general debate.

(3) If the National Assembly does not commit the proposed law for section-by-section debate, the proposed law may be revised and resubmitted by the proponent of the proposed law within 30 days. The proposed law shall be regarded as withdrawn, if the proponent fails to resubmit his proposal within the 30 day deadline. Rules applicable to newly introduced proposals shall be applied to such revised proposed laws.

Paragraph 105

(1) Section-by-section debate shall consist of debate over the amended provisions of the proposed law, and over the committee's recommendation.

(2) During debate, the various amended provisions shall be taken up in sequence, and debate shall be opened and closed regarding each individual amended provision, and finally regarding the introduction to the proposed law, and its title.

(3) During section-by-section debate, representatives shall address only the proposed amendments, and the provisions affected by proposed amendments.

(4) During debate, the National Assembly may change the previously determined sequence for consideration; may order the combining of several partial provisions, or

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it may deal separately with various amendments dealing with the same subject matter.

Paragraph 106

(1) Amendments shall be voted on after closing the section-by-section debate. Only those amendments (or amendments of the second degree) shall be voted on, which

(a) gained the support of one third of the designated committee's members present, or, in case of several committees, the support of one third of the members present of any one of the several committees, or,

(b) were introduced by the designated committee, or for which

(c) a vote was requested in writing by the leader of a parliamentary group.

(2) The leader of a parliamentary group may exercise the right specified in Section (1) (c) five times at most, regarding any one piece of proposed legislation, when decisions are made.

(3) The National Assembly shall vote jointly for or against all amendments (or amendments of the second degree) offered, with which the Government agrees. The leader of any parliamentary group may request that the National Assembly vote separately regarding some amendments (or amendments of the second degree) offered.

(4) Within two days after the close of section-by-section debate, (or within two days after the submission of the recommendations if a supplemental recommendation is made pursuant to Paragraph 102 (4)), the Government shall inform the leaders of parliamentary groups in writing of the amendments (or amendments of the second degree) offered, with which it agrees. The leader of any parliamentary group may later [as published], within one day from receipt of information from the government, file a written request with the president of the National Assembly seeking a separate National Assembly vote on one or another amendment (or proposed amendment of the second degree) offered.

(5) Prior to voting, the proponent of the proposed law shall state whether he agrees with the proposed amendment.

(6) If the vote on final passage is scheduled within five days from the date of the last vote after the section-by-section debate, the Government shall inform the National Assembly verbally of the amendments (or amendments of the second degree) with which it agrees, after completion of the section-by-section debate. Immediately after receiving the information from the Government, the leader of any parliamentary group may request that the National Assembly vote separately on one or another amendment (or amendment of the second degree). In the course of these proceedings the provisions of Paragraph 56 shall be followed, with the exception that in these instances the president is obligated to call for a recess.

(7) If several proposed amendments are introduced regarding a given part of a proposed law, votes shall be cast, to the extent possible, in the following sequence:

(a) proposals to omit a given part,

(b) amendments containing several amendments,

(c) amendments of the second degree,

(d) other amendments.

(8) In the course of voting on amended provisions, the original text of the proposed law shall not be voted on.

(9) A vote shall be cast on the entire text of the proposed law after the section-by-section debate, and after votes are cast on amended provisions, but not within five days after those votes were taken.

(10) After the close of section-by-section debate, but not later than two days before a vote on the entire text, as amended, copies of the unified proposal to be voted on for final passage, countersigned by the proponent, shall be distributed to the leaders of parliamentary groups and to the Committee on the Constitution, and shall be made accessible to representatives.

Paragraph 107

(1) Written amendments may be offered prior to voting on final passage, regarding any provision approved during section-by-section debate, but only on grounds that the approved provision is inconsistent with the Constitution or some other law, with some other approved provision of the proposed law, or with some provision of the proposed law not amended. The proponent may also offer amendments prior to the final vote on passage.

(2) Proposed amendments offered prior to starting the vote on final passage shall be referred by the president to the Committee on the Constitution.

(3) Before starting to vote on final passage, the designated committee or the Committee on the Constitution may recommend the postponement of the vote, if either or both of these committees intend to offer amendments. The National Assembly shall render a decision without debate regarding the postponement of the vote on final passage, after hearing arguments supportive of postponement by the proponent of postponement.

(4) Amendments offered pursuant to Section (1) shall be considered in the course of closing debate. The provisions of Paragraphs 105-106 shall be appropriately applied to consideration, debate, and voting, and if the Government is the proponent, it shall state whether it agrees with the adoption of the proposed law. The vote on final passage shall be taken only after the closing debate over the proposed law, if such an amendment is offered.

Paragraph 108

(1) A law adopted by the National Assembly shall be signed by the president of the National Assembly within 15 days, and shall be forwarded to the president of the Republic without delay.

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(2) The National Assembly may instruct the president of the National Assembly that he request the president of the Republic to proclaim a law on an urgent basis. The National Assembly shall render such decision without debate.

Paragraph 109

(1) Those entitled to recommend the affirmation of a law adopted by the National Assembly by popular referendum pursuant to Paragraph 5 (1) of Law No. 17 of 1989 on popular referendums, may do so in writing, prior to the commencement of the vote on final passage.

(2) The National Assembly shall render a decision regarding a call for popular referendum at its meeting following the adoption of the law, pursuant to provisions governing the consideration of resolutions (Paragraph 112).

(3) If the National Assembly orders that a law be affirmed by popular referendum, the law shall be forwarded to the president of the Republic only if affirmed by popular referendum.

Paragraph 110

(1) The National Assembly shall place on its calendar within 60 days a law forwarded to the president of the Republic for proclamation, and returned by the president of the Republic for further consideration.

(2) The president of the National Assembly shall forward the memorandum of the president of the Republic to the Committee on the Constitution, and to the designated committee. Thereafter the procedural rules in Paragraph 197 (2) and (4) shall be appropriately applied.

Paragraph 111

If the president of the Republic returns a law to the National Assembly on grounds of unconstitutionality declared by the Constitutional Court, the president of the National Assembly shall call upon the Committee on the Constitution and the designated committee to offer amendments consistent with the ruling of the Constitutional Court. Thereafter the procedural rules of Paragraph 107 (2) and (4) shall be appropriately applied.

Consideration of proposed resolutions

Paragraph 112

(1) The provisions of Paragraphs 98-99, and Paragraphs 101-108 shall be appropriately applied to the consideration of proposed resolutions, except as provided for in Sections (2) and (3).

(2) Resolutions brought by the National Assembly shall be published in the official gazette. Resolutions shall be signed by the president and by the clerks on duty. The National Assembly shall provide for the publication of resolutions.

(3) The National Assembly shall render decisions on a case by case basis concerning the publication of resolutions brought in closed sessions.

Consideration of political statements

Paragraph 113

(1) The provisions of Paragraphs 98-99, and Paragraphs 101-108 shall be appropriately applied to the consideration of draft political statements.

(2) The National Assembly shall render decisions on a case by case basis regarding the publication of political statements.

Consideration of reports

Paragraph 114

(1) The provisions of Paragraphs 98-99, and Paragraphs 101-103 shall be appropriately applied to the consideration of proposed reports, the only difference being that no amendment shall be offered to a report. Reports shall be considered only in the framework of general debate, and the subject of debate shall be limited to the proper foundations of findings and measures recommended in the report.

(2) The National Assembly shall render decisions concerning the adoption of reports.

Considering interpellations and questions

Paragraph 115

(1) Persons to whom interpellations or questions may be addressed shall respond in person, and only in exceptional cases through their deputies.

(2) Interpellations shall be submitted to the president of the National Assembly. Interpellations shall include descriptions of related facts and circumstances.

(3) At least 90 minutes per week shall be set aside for interpellations and questions, at a time designated in the calendar of a National Assembly meeting. Interpellations and questions shall be placed on the calendar in the order received. Each parliamentary group shall be given an opportunity to present at least one of its own interpellations and questions for consideration.

(4) The prime minister shall respond if an interpellation involves the entire functioning of the Government; the prime minister shall designate the responding minister, if the interpellation involves several ministers, or if the person of a minister is in question.

Paragraph 116

(1) The National Assembly shall consider interpellations only if submitted by 12 Noon, at least four work days prior to the legislative day.

(2) A representative may withdraw his interpellation at any time prior to making the interpellation. An interpellation shall be regarded as withdrawn if the representative filing the interpellation is not present when the calendar calls for the interpellation, and if the representative fails to excuse his absence in advance. The president shall designate a new time for the interpellation if the absence of the representative is excused.

(3) Three minutes shall be allotted for making an interpellation, five minutes for the response, and two minutes for making a statement regarding the acceptance of the response. The president shall cut off statements if these time limits are exceeded.

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(4) A verbally stated interpellation shall not include new facts not included in the written text of the interpellation. A deviation from this rule may be made only with the consent of the person subject to interpellation.

Paragraph 117

(1) Responses to all interpellations shall be given in the course of National Assembly meetings. In response to a request supported by reasoned argument, made by the person subject to interpellation, the National Assembly may vote without debate to permit a response in writing within 30 days. In such cases, the request and the response shall be included in the record of the National Assembly.

(2) Written responses received by representatives making interpellations shall be forwarded to the president of the National Assembly. The president of the National Assembly shall distribute copies of the written response to all representatives. The interpellation shall be considered at the session immediately following the receipt of the response.

(3) After receiving a response, including a written response, the representative making the interpellation shall have a right to rebut the response; the contents of a rebuttal shall not extend beyond evaluating the response, and justifying the evaluation. If a representative does not accept the response, the National Assembly shall render a decision as to whether to accept or reject the response.

(4) If the National Assembly rejects a response, the interpellation shall be referred to the committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter. Upon receipt of the committee's report, consideration of the interpellation shall be placed on the National Assembly calendar for the meeting immediately following receipt of the committee report, and based on the committee's recommendation, the National Assembly shall make one of the following decisions:

(a) subsequently find the response to the interpellation to be appropriate;

(b) accept the response, as supplemented by the person subject to interpellation at the committee meeting; or

(c) affirm the earlier decision to reject the response, and request the committee to recommend an action plan.

Paragraph 118

(1) The provisions of Paragraphs 115 and 117 shall be applied to submitting and responding to questions, with the following changes:

(a) questions submitted prior to 12 Noon on the work day preceding the legislative day shall be the only questions made subject to consideration;

(b) two minutes shall be allotted for raising each question and for responding to each question;

(c) a representative shall have no right to rebut a response, and the National Assembly shall not render a decision as to whether it accepts or rejects the response.

(2) The president shall cut off statements if the time limits specified in Section (1) (b) are exceeded.

The hour of instantaneous questions and answers

Paragraph 119

(1) At least 60 minutes per week shall be reserved on the National Assembly meeting calendar for raising and responding to direct questions (the hour of instantaneous questions and answers).

(2) On the day of the hour of instantaneous questions, no later than one hour before the opening of the meeting, the leader of any parliamentary group may request that a representative designated by the leader be recognized to raise a question during the hour of instantaneous questions. The subject matter of the question shall be stated as part of such request.

(3) During the hour of instantaneous questions, in the first round of questions, opposition parliamentary groups shall be recognized in the order of their membership size, while in subsequent rounds, all parliamentary groups may ask questions in the same order of sequence.

(4) Persons required by the Constitution to respond during the hour of instantaneous questions shall be present in the House chamber. If a person obligated to respond must perform a task in the public interest that cannot be delayed, he shall so inform the president of the National Assembly, and shall designate a person authorized to respond in his stead.

(5) If the prime minister or a minister does not respond in person, a representative may request that the answer be given in person. In such cases the person to whom the question is addressed shall answer in person during the third upcoming hour of instantaneous questions, at the latest.

(6) Two minutes each shall be allotted for raising a question and for responding to the question. Both the representative and the respondent shall have a right to make a one minute rebuttal. The respondent shall have the last say. The president shall cut off statements if time limitations are exceeded.

(7) Each parliamentary group shall be recognized to raise at least one question, and to receive a response thereto.

Chapter 4

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Procedures applicable to the proposed budget law

Paragraph 120

(1) The proposed law on the budget of the Hungarian Republic (hereinafter: proposed budget law) shall be considered and disposed of pursuant to the general provisions of the House Rules, except as provided for in Paragraphs 120 and 121.

(2) No urgent consideration of the proposed budget law shall be requested.

(3) Each committee shall present a separate report concerning the state budget and its implementation. The

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Budget Committee shall summarize views expressed by the various committees, and shall submit the summary to the National Assembly.

(4) The Budget Committee shall be the only committee authorized to offer amendments (or amendments of the second degree) within the scope of authority specified in Paragraph 121 (2) regarding the per chapter amounts, and total amounts of budgeted revenues and expenditures, the amount of the budget deficit or surplus, as well as with respect to the amount earmarked in the budget as general reserve.

(5) The provisions of Paragraph 94 (5) shall be applied regarding amendments to be offered during general and section-by-section debate, prior to making decisions specified in Paragraph 121 (1).

(6) In Part I. of the Budget Committee recommendation submitted in advance of section-by-section debate (Paragraph 95 (3))—and prior to the National Assembly decision to be made before 30 November regarding the total amount of revenues and expenditures per central budget chapter, and the extent of deficit or surplus in the proposed budget law applicable to the following year—the Budget Committee shall indicate those proposed amendments and positions taken by committees, which affect the amounts and totals of the proposed budget law, the per chapter revenues and expenditures of the central budget, as well as the extent of budget deficit or surplus. Proposed amendments which do not affect these issues shall be enumerated in Part II. of the Budget Committee recommendation, without showing the text of those.

Paragraph 121

(1) The National Assembly shall render a decision regarding proposed amendments and the sum totals of each chapter by 30 November; no decision shall be made regarding proposed amendments described in Part II. of the recommendation.

(2) When deciding matters specified in Section (1), after rendering decisions on proposed amendments, in due regard to, or as a result of decisions on amendments, the Budget Committee shall draft a proposed amendment regarding the amount of general reserves specified in the central budget, and then, regarding the per chapter amounts of revenues and expenditures, and total amounts of revenues and expenditures in the central budget, and further, regarding the extent of deficit or surplus, and methods of financing the deficit (or the intended function of the surplus). The National Assembly shall render a decision without debate concerning this proposal.

(3) The proposed amendment discussed in Section (2) shall also contain the numerical [szamszaki] carryover of several amendments adopted regarding individual projected amounts in the budget, except for projections funded by standard subsidies. The provisions of Paragraph 107 shall govern the latter.

(4) Within three days after the decision, the Budget Committee shall provide information to the National Assembly regarding provisions of the proposed budget law which have already been decided by the National Assembly.

(5) Section-by-section debate shall be reopened after the receipt of the information pursuant to Section (4). Within eight days after receipt of the information, amendments of the second degree may be offered, provided that these do not affect the total amounts of revenues and expenditures in the various chapters, and the extent of deficit or surplus.

(6) After the closing of the reopened section-by-section debate, the Budget Committee shall draft a new recommendation that contains the number and full text of proposed amendments contained in Part II. of the recommendation submitted pursuant to Paragraph 120 (6), as well as the number and full text of amendments of the second degree received after the reopening of section-by-section debate, recommended for adoption.

Procedure pertaining to international agreements within the jurisdiction of the National Assembly.

Paragraph 122

(1) In proceedings related to international agreements within the jurisdiction of the National Assembly (hereinafter: international agreement), the general provisions of the House Rules shall be observed, except as provided for in Paragraphs 122 and 123.

(2) Relative to executive communications received from the Government regarding the signing of an international agreement prior to signing the international agreement, the committees involved in foreign affairs shall take positions in due regard to the position taken by the committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the international agreement.

(3) The Government shall introduce a resolution regarding the confirmation, joining, or acceptance of an international agreement, amendments to an international agreement, as well as joining or leaving an international organization. The agreement, as well as the text of the bylaws of the international organization shall be attached to the resolution.

(4) The committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the agreement shall make recommendations regarding the resolution.

(5) No amendment shall be offered to that part of the resolution, which contains the text of the international agreement.

Paragraph 123

(1) A proposed law concerning the proclamation of an international agreement, of which the consummated agreement is part, shall be introduced by the Government.

(2) The committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the agreement shall prepare recommendations regarding the proposed law.

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(3) No amendment shall be offered to that part of the proposed law, which contains the text of the international agreement.

Exceptional proceedings

Paragraph 124

(1) The proponent of a proposed law or a proposed resolution (hereinafter: legislative proposal) may, upon introduction, request that his proposal be considered in the framework of exceptional proceedings.

(2) No exceptional proceedings shall be sought if, pursuant to the Constitution, the adoption of a law requires the affirmative vote of two thirds of the number of National Assembly representatives, or of the number of National Assembly representatives present, and further, regarding the consideration of legislative proposals dealing with the annual budget of the Hungarian Republic, amendments to, or the implementation of the annual budget.

(3) If in the course of an exceptional proceeding the National Assembly considers a proposal advanced by the Government, and the Government recommends that the vote on the proposal shall also be a vote of confidence, the exceptional proceeding shall be interrupted immediately, and consideration of the proposed law shall be continued pursuant to general provisions, or shall be restarted pursuant to Paragraph 134.

(4) In the course of exceptional proceedings, general provisions concerning the introduction and consideration of a proposed law shall be observed, except for changes specified in Paragraphs 124-128.

Paragraph 125

(1) The National Assembly shall render a decision without debate regarding considerations conducted under exceptional proceedings—possibly after the proponent has made his remarks. The adoption of legislation produced in the framework of exceptional proceedings requires the affirmative vote of four-fifth of the National Assembly representatives present.

(2) The urgent consideration of a proposed law in the framework of an exceptional proceeding shall be requested when the proposed law is introduced. The provisions of Section (1) shall be observed regarding a resolution of urgency.

(3) After ordering an exceptional proceeding, the president of the National Assembly shall immediately designate a committee to manage debate over the proposal.

Paragraph 126

(1) Amendments to the proposed law may be offered during the 21 day period following the passage of a resolution ordering exceptional proceedings.

(2) When proceedings are pursued on an urgent basis, the deadline for proposed amendments shall be eight days after the date of the resolution authorizing exceptional proceedings, brought by the National Assembly.

(3) Only amendments of the second degree related to amendments introduced earlier may be offered after the expiration of the deadline for offering amendments, until the close of committee debate. This provision shall not apply to designated committees.

Paragraph 127

(1) The designated committee shall comment on the proposed law, and shall decide whether to support amendments offered.

(2) National Assembly representatives may speak at the committee meeting.

Paragraph 128

(1) If a proposed law is considered in the framework of exceptional and urgent proceedings, the proposed law shall be placed on the National Assembly calendar for the meeting immediately following the close of committee debate.

(2) In the course of National Assembly consideration of the proposed law, the proponent of the proposed law shall speak first, followed by the Government representative, unless the proposed law was introduced by the Government. The positions of the various parliamentary groups may be stated by one representative from each of the parliamentary group. From among the independent representatives, the first one announcing his intent to speak shall express his views. Before rendering a decision, the proponent shall have a right to respond to the statements made.

(3) Following remarks specified in Section (2), the National Assembly shall decide whether to adopt the proposed law as a whole, including amendments supported by the designated committee.

(4) The provisions of Paragraph 107 shall also be observed in exceptional proceedings.

Political debate

Paragraph 129

(1) In response to a written proposal by the Government, or by at least one fifth the number of representatives, the National Assembly shall debate any comprehensive political issue designated in the proposal. Such proposals may be submitted only in regular sessions. Any representative may support a maximum of two proposals per session for political debate.

(2) The National Assembly shall conduct political debate no sooner than 14 days after, and not later than 28 days after the date of submission of the proposal.

(3) By observing the provisions of Paragraph 53, a time frame shall be established for political debate; the time allotted shall not be shorter than four hours. The political debate shall begin with the Government's statement, and end with the Government's counter response.

Settlement of immunity and incompatibility issues

Paragraph 130

(1) The general provisions of the House Rules, with changes pursuant to Paragraphs 130-131, shall be

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applied when settling immunity and incompatibility issues presented by National Assembly representatives.

(2) The president of the National Assembly shall refer proposals for the suspension of immunity (Paragraph 3 (2)-(3) of Law No. 55 of 1990 on the legal status of National Assembly representatives), objections to violations of immunity (Paragraph 4 (2) of the same law), and proposals for the declaration of incompatibility (Paragraph 8 (2) of the same law), to the National Assembly standing Committee on Immunity and Conflict of Interest Matters (hereinafter: Immunity Committee) without delay, and shall inform the National Assembly of this fact. If the National Assembly is not in session, the president of the National Assembly shall decide whether there is a need to convene a special session or a special meeting to judge the immunity or incompatibility issue presented.

(3) The chairman of the Immunity Committee shall notify the affected representative of the fact that an immunity and incompatibility charge against him is being considered, and about the time and place of the related hearing. The affected representative shall be heard at his request if he appears at the hearing, but he shall not be present at the Immunity Committee meeting, except at the meeting dealing with the violation of the right to immunity.

(4) The Immunity Committee shall consider immunity and incompatibility cases in closed meetings.

(5) Within 30 days from date of receipt of a case, the Immunity Committee shall

(a) make a recommendation to the president of the National Assembly relative to a violation of the right to immunity;

(b) introduce a resolution in the National Assembly regarding the suspension of immunity; and

(c) make a recommendation to the National Assembly regarding the resolution declaring incompatibility.

(6) No committee other than the Immunity Committee shall make recommendations regarding a resolution introduced in an immunity and incompatibility case.

Paragraph 131

(1) The National Assembly shall consider proposed resolutions involving immunity and incompatibility on an urgent basis.

(2) No amendment shall be offered to the resolution; the National Assembly shall render a decision regarding the resolution without debate. The representative involved in the case may speak before a decision is made.

(3) A decision to suspend a representative's immunity shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds the number of representatives present.

The election of leading public officials

Paragraph 132

(1) The general provisions of the House Rules shall be applied when electing leading public officials, except for changes specified in this Paragraph.

(2) The National Assembly shall elect the president of the Republic, the prime minister, members of the Constitutional Court, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the supreme prosecutor, the National Assembly commissioners, and the chairman and vice chairman of the State Accounting Office pursuant to rules specified in the Constitution and in separate laws.

(3) A secret ballot shall be taken, except regarding the election of the prime minister.

(4) If the law requires a confirmation hearing by a National Assembly committee of a nominee before his election or appointment to a public office, the committee having jurisdiction shall hear the nominee, and shall comment on the recommendation regarding the person.

(5) Regarding officials elected by the National Assembly, the spokesman of the committee shall present the committee's view at a meeting of the National Assembly. Regarding other nominees, the chairman of the committee shall forward the committee's views to the person who exercises the authority of recommending and appointing a given nominee.

(6) Unless other rules prescribe a different oath for persons enumerated in Section (2) and for ministers, they shall take their oath of office pursuant to *Appendix 3* to the House Rules before the National Assembly, and shall sign the affidavit after their election, or, in the case of ministers, after their appointment. The provisions of Paragraph 8 (4) shall be appropriately applied for failing to take the oath of office.

Procedural rules related to the termination of the mandate of the president of the Republic, and to his substitution

Paragraph 133

(1) If cause for incompatibility in the course of discharging the official functions of the president of the Republic arises, the procedures provided in the House Rules for dealing with incompatibility issues relative to National Assembly representatives shall be applied, with the following changes:

(a) the Committee on the Constitution shall proceed as the designated committee;

(b) a vote of two-thirds of the number of representatives shall be required for the decision; and

(c) votes shall be cast in secret.

(2) If the president of the Republic issues a statement of resignation to the National Assembly, rules pertaining to resolutions shall be followed regarding his statement, with the following changes:

(a) debate and voting over the statement of resignation shall take place within 15 days from date of receipt of the statement; if the National Assembly is not in session when the statement is received, a special session or a special meeting shall be convened;

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(b) the statement of resignation shall not be referred to a committee;

(c) no amendment shall be offered to the statement of resignation, but any parliamentary group or at least 15 representatives may propose in writing that the National Assembly request the president of the Republic to reconsider his decision. Such proposal shall be made the day before consideration of the statement of resignation begins, and if such a proposal is tendered, a vote on the proposal shall be in order before voting on the statement of resignation;

(d) if the president of the Republic notifies in writing the National Assembly that he maintains his decision to resign, the provisions of Subsections (a)-(c) shall be followed, but a debate shall not be opened on the matter, and the National Assembly shall not refuse to take note of the resignation.

(3) With respect to a president of the Republic, who, in the course of performing his official functions, violates the Constitution or some other law, rules pertaining to the consideration of resolutions shall be followed regarding a proposal to hold to account the president of the Republic, with the following changes:

(a) the Committee on the Constitution shall proceed as the designated committee;

(b) no amendment shall be offered to the resolution;

(c) a vote of two-thirds of the number of representatives shall be required for the decision; and

(d) votes shall be cast in secret.

(4) If the president of the Republic is temporarily impeded in performing his functions, the National Assembly shall render a decision simultaneously determining the presence of temporary impediment, and designating the National Assembly vice president to perform the functions of the president of the National Assembly, while the president of the National Assembly substitutes for the president of the Republic. A resolution to this effect may be introduced by the president of the Republic, the Government, or any National Assembly representative.

(5) If a representative introduces a resolution determining that the condition of the president of the Republic prevents him from performing his functions, rules pertaining to the consideration of resolutions shall be followed with changes specified in Section (3).

No confidence motion, voting on a no confidence motion

Paragraph 134

(1) Rules pertaining to resolutions, and to the consideration of resolutions shall be applied to no confidence motions against the prime minister, and to votes of no confidence against the government (hereinafter: no confidence motions), with the following changes:

(a) debate over the no confidence motion shall be held three days after, but no later than eight days after a motion is submitted; a special session or a special meeting shall be convened, if the National Assembly is not in session during that period;

(b) a no confidence motion shall not be referred to any committee;

(c) no amendments shall be offered to no confidence motions.

(2) If the Government, acting through the prime minister, recommends that a vote on a proposal submitted by the Government shall also be a vote of no confidence against the Government, the proposal for a no confidence vote may also be submitted verbally at a meeting of the National Assembly, prior to the start of voting on final passage of an entire law proposed by the Government.

PART V.

CLOSING PROVISIONS

Chapter 1

THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Preparation, adoption, and implementation of the National Assembly budget

Paragraph 135

(1) The National Assembly shall establish its own budget as part of the central budget. The budget of the Library shall be presented separately within the National Assembly budget chapter.

(2) The proposed budget of the National Assembly shall be prepared under the direction of the president of the National Assembly by the director in chief responsible for business matters; the proposed budget of the Library shall be prepared by the director in chief. The president of the National Assembly, with the concurrence of the Committee on the House, and after hearing the views of the Budget Committee, shall make the proposed budget of the National Assembly available to the Government for purposes of drafting the proposed budget law.

(3) The director in chief for business matters shall be responsible for implementing the budget of the National Assembly; the director in chief of the Library shall be responsible for implementing the separate budget of the Library.

(4) The State Accounting Office shall audit compliance with the National Assembly budget.

Chapter 2

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Petitions received by the National Assembly

Paragraph 136

(1) The president of the National Assembly shall refer petitions received by the National Assembly for action to the committee or office having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the petition.

(2) A record shall be maintained of petitions received by the National Assembly, indicating the action taken. These petitions may be reviewed by representatives at any time.

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(3) Representatives, parliamentary groups, and committees receiving petitions shall process these petitions independently, and shall take action in due regard to legal provisions concerning reports, proposals, and complaints filed in the public interest.

Deadlines

Paragraph 137

(1) Whenever the House Rules refer to legislative days, the deadlines shall be counted in terms of hours and days.

(2) The starting day shall not be charged against the deadline. A starting day is the day when an act or other circumstance giving cause for the establishment of a deadline occurs.

(3) If the last day of a given deadline falls on a holiday, the deadline shall expire on the first work day after the holiday.

(4) A deadline expires at the end of the last day.

Justification of omissions

Paragraph 138

(1) If the House Rules provide an opportunity for the justification of omissions, justifications shall be submitted to the person for whom the omitted act should be performed. If the act should have been performed at the National Assembly, the justification shall be submitted to the president of the National Assembly.

(2) If possible, the omitted act shall be performed simultaneously with the provision of justification.

(3) Requests to accept justifications shall be judged by the person designated in Section (1). No legal recourse is available in this regard.

The protection of secrets

Paragraph 139

(1) A person, who in the course of the operations of the National Assembly learns or comes into the possession of a state secret or an official secret, shall keep such secrets pursuant to the general rules governing the protection of secrets.

(2) Until such time that Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Secrets, as an appendix to the House Rules, are created, separate rules for protecting secrets in conjunction with the operations of the National Assembly shall be those contained in the Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Secrets established by the president of the National Assembly.

Deviations from House Rules

Paragraph 140

(1) In exceptional cases, at the recommendation of the Committee on the House, the National Assembly may decide by a vote of three fifths the number of representatives present after hearing not more than one speaker per parliamentary group, to deviate from the House Rules in the course of considering a certain matter.

(2) The provisions of Section (1) shall not be applied, if doing so would conflict with the Constitution or some other law, and when considering the Constitution or the House Rules.

Listing of interest groups and social organizations of a national scope

Paragraph 141

(1) The executive secretary of the National Assembly shall maintain a list of registered interest groups and social organizations of a national scope, which asked to be registered.

(2) Requests for registration shall state

—the name, headquarters location, and address;

—scope of operations (goals);

—the managing and representative organs; and

—the names and addresses of authorized representatives

of the interest group or social organization.

(3) The president of the National Assembly shall publish the list of registered interest groups and social organizations in the official gazette.

Definitions

Paragraph 142

In the context of the House Rules

(1) *Point of order* means a proposal that deals with a procedural issue related to the management and order of plenary or committee meetings, which requires a decision, but which does not affect the merits of legislation under consideration.

(2) *Agenda* means all independent proposals, and other matter requiring consideration and/or decision (hereinafter, in this Paragraph: legislation) which does not deal with procedural issues, and which may be placed on the calendar of a plenary meeting and/or a committee agenda automatically, or based on separate decision.

(3) *Proposal to place an item on the agenda* means a proposal to include in the agenda legislation not automatically included.

(4) *Calendar* means the schedule of all legislation to be considered at a given plenary meeting of the National Assembly, taken from the agenda.

(5) *Proposal regarding the calendar* means a proposal as to which legislative proposal from among all pending legislative proposals on the agenda shall be placed on the calendar.

(6) *Calendar item* means legislation which constitutes an individual item on the agenda.

(7) *Amendment* means a written submission applicable to a specific part of the text of a proposed law, proposed resolution, or draft political statement, expressing an intent to deviate from that text.

(8) *Amendment of the second degree* means an amendment offered during section-by-section debate, applicable to an already amended provision of the original

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proposed text, or to a related provision; an amendment of the second degree refines the original amendment.

(9) *Committee having jurisdiction* means a committee, which has authority and jurisdiction to deal with a given piece of legislation pursuant to the National Assembly resolution on the authority and jurisdiction of National Assembly committees.

(10) *Designated committee* means a committee requested by the president of the National Assembly to deal with a certain piece of legislation.

Interpreting the House Rules

Paragraph 143

(1) The president shall decide individual disputes arising from the interpretation of the House Rules during National Assembly meetings.

(2) If a disputed issue concerning the interpretation of the House Rules arises during a committee meeting, the chairman of the committee shall request an interpretation from the committee responsible for the interpretation of House Rules.

(3) A standing committee designated in the National Assembly resolution on the functions of standing committees of the National Assembly (the committee responsible for interpreting the House Rules) shall state its position concerning the House Rules to the elected officials of the National Assembly, as well as to any parliamentary group or committee, upon their request. Representatives shall have access to positions taken by the committee. At the request of any parliamentary group, the National Assembly shall render a decision concerning the committee's position related to the interpretation of the House Rules.

Chapter 3

THE OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

The Office of the National Assembly

Paragraph 144

(1) The Office of the National Assembly (hereinafter: Office) shall be the National Assembly's work organization. It is the function of the Office to ensure the continuous functioning of the National Assembly, and to assist in the activities of representatives and of the officials of the National Assembly.

(2) The Executive Secretariat, and other organs specified in the Organizational and Operating Rules shall be the offices of the National Assembly.

Paragraph 145

(1) As part of preparing for, and conducting National Assembly sessions, meetings, and committee meetings, the Office shall:

(a) provide professional legal assistance to committees in preparing proposals and recommendations;

(b) comment on proposed laws and proposed resolutions introduced, as well as amendments offered to designated committees, from the standpoint of whether the legislation complies with requirements established in Paragraph 95;

(c) assign a permanent codifying group to work alongside the Committee on the Constitution, and assist the codification work of the rest of the committees in a manner specified in the Organizational and Operating Rules;

(d) make preparations for meetings and make copies of proposals, deliver materials to be considered in meetings and other information to representatives and to the meeting participants;

(e) assist in securing the undisturbed conduct of National Assembly meetings, and provide professional legal assistance to the president or vice president in conducting meetings;

(f) provide for the editing and publication of the record of the National Assembly, and for the publication of the National Assembly Diary;

(g) edit and prepare for promulgation the laws and resolutions of the National Assembly;

(h) make preparations for the meetings of the Committee on the House and the committee chairmen's meeting as directed by the president of the National Assembly, and make arrangements for taking the minutes of meetings;

(i) take part in preparing National Assembly committee meetings, make arrangements for the delivery of invitations and materials to be considered, and provide for the administration of committees;

(j) provide for the flow of information to representatives and for the operation of information systems; cooperate with the National Assembly Library in performing this function;

(k) forward laws, National Assembly resolutions, and other matters adopted or decided to the president of the National Assembly within three work days from the decision, and provide access to these through the information system of the parliament.

(2) As part of tending to the business, technical, and general administrative affairs of the National Assembly, the Office shall

(a) prepare and implement the budget of the National Assembly;

(b) manage the real and movable property of the National Assembly;

(c) perform general administrative and management functions related to the operations of the National Assembly;

(d) provide technical and engineering conditions, and premises needed for the operation of the National Assembly;

(e) ensure that representatives and parliamentary groups receive their entitlements;

(f) implement action taken by the president of the National Assembly regarding the maintenance of order, and the security of the National Assembly;

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(g) consistent with parliamentary traditions, determine the places of parliamentary groups, and the order of seating of representatives in the chamber of the National Assembly, after reconciling its plan with leaders of parliamentary groups and with a delegate chosen by independent representatives;

(h) ensure that no unauthorized person is present during deliberations of the National Assembly, of committees, and in the National Assembly building, and provide for the issuance of passes and authorizations to park;

(i) perform personnel administration and labor affairs tasks related to the Office of the National Assembly.

(3) As part of performing the tasks of a secretariat to the president and vice presidents of the National Assembly, the Office shall

(a) perform functions related to public interest announcements, proposals, and complaints received by the National Assembly and the president of the National Assembly;

(b) perform functions related to the receipt, and preparation for decision of initiatives proposing popular referendums and grassroots initiatives;

(c) take part in establishing relations between the president of the National Assembly on the one hand, and parties not represented in the National Assembly, interest groups and social organizations, on the other.

(4) As part of performing office functions related to the bilateral and multilateral international relations of the National Assembly, the Office shall

(a) take part in organizing the international relations of the National Assembly;

(b) brief delegations traveling abroad, and receiving delegations;

(c) take part in preparations for, and the management of international functions.

(5) As part of performing the press activities related to the National Assembly, the Office shall

(a) provide for the distribution of official National Assembly press releases to the mass media;

(b) provide access to the press to bodies of the National Assembly, as well as to the officials and functions of the National Assembly;

(c) provide information to members of the press regarding the functioning of the National Assembly.

Paragraph 146

Experts and administrative workers assisting in the activities of parliamentary groups shall be hired by the director in chief in charge of business affairs, upon recommendations made by the leaders of parliamentary groups. The director in chief in charge of business affairs shall accept the decisions of leaders of parliamentary groups to employ or terminate the employment of persons, except if doing so would be in violation of laws. Regarding these workers, the leaders of parliamentary groups shall exercise all other rights of an employer, as part of authority transferred to them.

The National Assembly Library

Paragraph 147

(1) The Library is a public, scientific, reference library. Its basic services are free. The Library provides free of charge library and information services to the National Assembly, to representatives, committees, and parliamentary groups, and to experts working alongside these, as well as to the offices of the National Assembly. Other services may be obtained for compensation.

(2) The Library shall be managed independently, and financed by the segregated fund allocated within the budget of the National Assembly.

(3) The head of the Library is the director in chief, he exercises the rights of an employer over workers at the Library.

(4) The president of the National Assembly oversees the operation of the Library.

Chapter 4

ENACTING PROVISIONS

Enforcement

Paragraph 148

(1) Except for Paragraph 44 (2)-(3) and Paragraph 142 (9), this National Assembly resolution shall take force eight days after its proclamation. Matters placed on the calendar prior to the effective date of this resolution shall become part of pending legislation, without separate action to this effect. Matters in regard to which general debate has commenced prior to the effective date of this resolution, shall be subject to procedural rules in effect prior to the effective date of this resolution.

(2) (a) A separate law gives force to the provisions of Paragraph 44 (2)-(3) of this resolution, and

(b) Paragraph 142 (9) takes force on the day when the National Assembly resolution on the authority and jurisdiction of National Assembly committees takes force.

(3) When this National Assembly resolution takes force, National Assembly Resolution No. 8 of 8 June 1989 amending the House Rules of the National Assembly, and providing for a unified text of the House Rules, and further, National Assembly Resolutions Nos. 31 of 25 March 1990, 74 of 26 October 1990, 25 of 20 April 1991, 53 of 5 October 1991, 69 of 14 December 1991, 51 of 11 September 1992, 65 of 16 October 1992, 74 of 6 November 1992, and 75 of 6 November 1992, amending Resolution No. 8 of 1989, shall lose force.

Dr. Zoltan Gal (in lieu of signature), president of the National Assembly

Laszlo Boros (in lieu of signature), clerk of the National Assembly

Terezia Csaszar, Mrs. Dr. Szilagyi (in lieu of signature), clerk of the National Assembly

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Appendix 1 to National Assembly Resolution No. 46.OGY of 30 September 1994

Text of oath to be taken by National Assembly representatives

"I, ..., a representative in the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary, swear to be loyal to my homeland, the Hungarian Republic, and its people in the course of performing my functions as a representative; to abide by the Constitution and by laws, and to keep secrets I become aware of; to work conscientiously pursuant to the will of my electorate and my mandate, and to make every effort to enhance the development of the Hungarian Republic, and the happiness of its people.

(Optional, based on the conviction of the representative)

"So help me God!

"Budapest, ... day of ....., 19 ....

..... signature"

Appendix 2 to National Assembly Resolution No. 46.OGY of 30 September 1994

Assignment of representative authority in one instance

"Pursuant to Paragraph 37 (2) of the House Rule, I assign Representative ....., a member of the ..... Committee* to represent me in one instance, at the ..... meeting of the ..... Committee, due to my absence.

"Budapest, 199 .....

"..... principal, member of the ..... Committee*

"..... agent, member of the ..... Committee*

"* Paragraph 37 (2) of the House Rules requires that in case of absence, a committee member may assign his representative authority only to a member of the same committee."

Appendix 3 to National Assembly Resolution No. 46.OGY of 30 September 1994

Text of oath to be taken by leading public officials before the National Assembly

"I, ..., swear to be loyal to my homeland, the Hungarian Republic, and its people; to abide by, and make others abide by the Constitution and laws, and to keep secrets I become aware of; and to perform my functions as ..... conscientiously, in the interest of the development of the Hungarian Republic, and the happiness of its people.

(Optional, based on the convictions of the representative)

"So help me God!

"Budapest, ... day of ....., 19 ....

..... signature"

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